

# USEFUL INFORMATION : 🇿🇦 SOUTH AFRICA

## WEATHER

Johannesburg is 1.765m above sea level, and its climate is characterized by wet, warm summers and dry, cold winters. The city enjoys a sunny climate with sudden late afternoon rain in the summer months of October to March.



## OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Johannesburg is South Africa's most cosmopolitan city. South Africa itself has 11 languages, but visitors will find that English is the official language and the local variety has been influenced by African languages. The official languages of the market will be French and English.



## CURRENCY AND CREDIT CARDS

The currency of South Africa is the Rand (sign: R; code: ZAR). Major International Credit cards are generally accepted in hotels and banks. Visitors are advised not to carry large sums of cash on them. **1 EUR = 10.2 ZAR / 1 USD = 7.5 ZAR**



## TIME DIFFERENCE

South Africa observes the GMT +2 time zone.



## FORMALITIES FOR ENTRY IN SOUTH AFRICA

**Important Notice:** The information provided here is to be used merely as a guide. Please consult with your closest embassy, as well as your travel agency, before you travel.

**Your passport should have at least 2 blank pages next to each other for endorsements**

**On entering South Africa, you will need to be in possession of the following:**

- A passport valid for a period of 6 months after the applicant's arrival in South Africa;
- Sufficient funds for your stay. A general guideline is 50 EUR / 75 USD per diem.
- An itinerary / accommodation and flight schedule
- A return or onward ticket
- Yellow fever certificates are required if the journey starts or entails passing through the yellow fever belt of Africa or South America.
- A valid visa, if required. For a list of countries exempt from visas, please consult the following address: <http://bit.ly/axqcyx>



If you are not exempt, you must obtain a visa before you arrival. South Africa does not issue visas at Border Control, and visas must be obtained at a South African embassy or consulate, found in most countries. Allow at least a month for processing. For more information on visa requirements, visit the Department of Home Affairs website ([www.home-affairs.gov.za](http://www.home-affairs.gov.za)). **It is necessary to ensure that your healthcare coverage is extended for your stay in South Africa.**

## VACCINES AND HEALTH INFORMATION

According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov>), the following vaccinations are recommended for South Africa. **Johannesburg is not in malaria zone.**



### The vaccines usually advised are:

- hepatitis A
- hepatitis B
- rabies
- typhoid
- diphtheria
- tetanus
- measles

### The vaccines sometimes advised are:

- **yellow fever** (is not a risk in the region, but the certificate is an entry requirement if you're travelling to/from an infected region or some of South Africa's neighbouring countries.)
- meningococcal meningitis

## ELECTRICITY



The electricity supply is 220/240 volts/50 Hz. Electric sockets are three-pin square (British-type). Visitors are advised to ensure that their electric appliances such as shavers and battery chargers for video cameras operating on different voltage have built-in adapters.



## SAFETY

Please remember that despite the statistics and newspaper headlines, the majority of travellers visit the country without incident. The risks are highest in Johannesburg, but not in the SANDTON area/where **DISCOP AFRICA** will take place/ followed by some township areas and other urban centres. No matter where you are, you can minimize the risks by following basic safety precautions, remaining alert and exercising common sense.



- + do not walk alone after the sun get down;
- + leave your valuable objects and travel documents at your hotel's safety box.

## TRAVEL

Johannesburg is roughly a ten-hour flight away from most European cities, and 14-hour flight away from the east coast of North America.

More international carriers fly here than any other city in southern Africa, and there are direct flights to most African cities, New York, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, most major European cities, the Gulf, Mumbai, Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok and three Australian cities.

<http://www.airports.co.za>



## TRANSFER AIRPORT - SANDTON

### GAUTRAIN

The GAUTRAIN system provides you with a safe, comfortable and reliable train service between O.R.Tambo International Airport (ORTIA) and the Sandton District CBD ('Airport Service'). You can easily access the Sandton Convention Center within 15min by GAUTRAIN, operating from 05:30 AM to 08:00 PM every day. Tickets cost approximately R100, one way. More information available on <http://www.gautrain.co.za/>



### TAXI

The most reliable way is to **book a taxi** with our referenced travel agency "XO AFRICA": [click here to book your transfer](#). The trip from the Airport to the Sandton takes around 45min, depending on traffic.

## LEISURE

South Africa is one of the most exciting destinations for your holiday. Experiencing the diversity of the nature, the wildlife, the culture and heritage will leave on you unforgettable holiday souvenirs. Our referenced travel agency XO Africa is the specialist of the destination and will organize holiday for the DISCOP AFRICA delegates. To have an idea of the destination and book your stays in South Africa feel free to contact XO Africa <http://www.xoafrika.com/discop/>



### TIPS

In most restaurants service is not included. The usual tip is 10% of the total amount. In South Africa it is used to tip the luggage porters at the airport: +/- 10ZAR.

VIDEO : **"Discover South Africa"** :

<https://www.facebook.com/events/200504633392975/>