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1. **Overview of South Africa**

Diversity is a key feature of South Africa, where 11 languages are recognised as official, where community leaders include rabbis and chieftains, rugby players and returned exiles, where traditional healers ply their trade around the corner from stockbrokers and where housing ranges from mud huts to palatial homes with swimming pools.

The diverse communities, however, have not had much representation for long. Until 1994 South Africa was ruled by a white minority which considered itself superior, and which was so determined to hang onto power that it took activists most of the last century before they succeeded in their fight to get rid of apartheid and extend democracy to the rest of the population.

The white governments had grand social engineering schemes which separated the races and involved the forced resettlement of hundreds of thousands of people. They poisoned and bombed opponents and encouraged trouble in neighbouring countries. The apartheid government eventually negotiated itself out of power, and the new leadership encouraged reconciliation. But the cost of the years of conflict will be paid for a long time yet, not least in terms of lawlessness, social disruption and lost education.

South Africa faces major problems, but having held three successful national elections as well as local polls since the end of white rule, a democratic culture appears to be taking hold, allowing people at least some say in the search for solutions. Very much Africa's superpower, South Africa has the continent's biggest economy, with strong financial and manufacturing sectors. It is a leading exporter of minerals and tourism is a key source of foreign exchange. But many South Africans remain poor and unemployment is high.

Land redistribution is an ongoing issue. Most farmland is still white-owned. Having so far acquired land on a "willing buyer, willing seller" basis, officials have signalled that large-scale expropriations are on the cards. The government aims to transfer 30% of farmland to black South Africans by 2014. South Africa has the second-highest number of HIV/Aids patients in the world. Around one in seven of its citizens is infected with HIV. Free anti-retroviral drugs are available under a state-funded scheme.

1.1. Map

![South Africa Map](image-url)
1.2. Flag

![South African Flag]

1.3. Statistics

- **Population:** 45.3 million (UN, 2005)
- **Capital:** Pretoria
- **Area:** 1.22 million sq km (470,693 sq miles)
- **Major languages:** 11 official languages including English, Afrikaans, Ndebele, North Sotho, South Sotho, Swazi, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa, Zulu
- **Major religion:** Christianity, Islam, indigenous beliefs
- **Life expectancy:** 47 years (men), 51 years (women)
- **Monetary unit:** 1 Rand = 100 cents
- **Main exports:** Gold, diamonds, metals and minerals, cars, machinery
- **GNI per capita:** US $3,630 (World Bank, 2006)
- **Internet domain:** .za
- **International dialling code:** +27

2. GEOGRAPHY

South Africa is situated at the southern tip of Africa forming part of the Southern Africa region and is bordered by Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland. Lesotho is situated within South Africa’s borders.

There are nine provinces – Gauteng, Western Cape, KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Free State and the North West. Pretoria is the executive capital and Cape Town the legislative capital. Other major cities include Johannesburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein and East London.

The country’s climate varies from region to region. The Western Cape experiences a Mediterranean climate and the interior has a semi-desert climate with cold, dry winters and summer rainfall. KwaZulu Natal has a subtropical climate with humid conditions. Snow is uncommon and is limited to the highest lying regions of the country.
South Africa was first inhabited by the Khoisan, followed by Bantu tribes migrating from the North. These were first exposed to Europeans when Portuguese explorer Bartholomeu Dias rounded the Cape in 1488 and Vasco de Gama landed at the Cape en route to India in 1497. The first European colony was established in 1652 by Jan van Riebeek on behalf of the Dutch East India Company as a food station for ships on the trade routes.

The colony expanded as more settlers arrived and it became an important strategic point on the trade route with the Netherlands, France and Britain competing for its control. The British seized power in 1795 which they lost to the Dutch between 1803 and 1806.

The British colonial war was characterised by protracted scuffles with indigenous groups and, later, with the Afrikaners during two Anglo Boer Wars. The scorched earth policy adopted by the British in the Second Anglo Boer War left a large number of displaced people, a depressed economy and a legacy of bitterness.

In 1910 South Africa became a self-governing union as a member of the Commonwealth. Between 1910 and 1948 laws based on race were passed and protests (largely ineffective) followed. Britain continued to be influential in the union until 1948 when the National Party won the election.

The National Party implemented apartheid forced the separation of races with whites having preferential access. This was done through legislation such as the Prohibition of Mixed Marriage Act, the Population Registration Act (that introduced race classification) and the Group Areas Act. Black organisations united against apartheid and staged mass protests.

In 1961 South Africa became a republic and withdrew from the Commonwealth. The United Nations refused to recognise the republic and South Africa effectively began a 30 year period of international isolation. The country was excluded from international organisations and sporting events and also had economic and trade sanctions imposed that served to slow down the economy to such an extent that it could no longer survive in the isolation.

During these years of isolation, the government continued to intensify the implementation of apartheid and the opposition movements increased their protests. Many analysts are of the opinion that the events of June 16 1976, when Soweto’s youth protested against legislation making Afrikaans the language in which subjects were to be taught, were the turning point in the struggle against apartheid.
Political reforms started in 1986 with the repeal of certain apartheid legislation. Nelson Mandela was released in 1990 after 27 years in prison and the ANC began a process of negotiation with the National Party government. The negotiation process culminated in the drafting of a constitution and the country’s first democratic elections in 1994. In the same year the country was accepted back into international organisations.

The second national and parliamentary elections were held on June 2, 1999. In the national elections, the ANC narrowly missed a two-thirds majority. The ANC won the majority of seats in the parliamentary elections securing 233 seats, the DP won 38, the IFP 34, the NNP 28, the UDM 14, the ADP 6 and the final 14 were won by a smaller parties.

- Active political parties in South Africa include:
  - African National Congress (ANC)
  - African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP)
  - Democratic Alliance (DA)
  - United Democratic Movement (UDM)
  - Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)
  - Pan-African Congress (PAC)
  - Freedom Front (FF)

In October 2002, the Constitutional Court ruled on the provisions of floor-crossing legislation with regard to political parties and ruled that representatives of a political party were not allowed to defect to another political party on the national and provincial level, but this is allowed on the municipal level. The result has been shifts of power in mainly from the DA to the NNP and the ANC who have formed a coalition.

### 4. ECONOMY

South Africa has the most advanced economy on the African continent. Since 1994, particularly, the country’s economy has grown rapidly. Its geographical position provides an ideal gateway to Sub-Saharan Africa.

The most important contributors to the economy include the mining sector, manufacturing and agriculture. Most economic activity takes place in Gauteng where most mining occurs. The country’s financial and industrial infrastructure is well developed with excellent growth potential.

The country is plagued with the problem of large socio-economic inequalities that resulted from the apartheid regime and continues to manifest itself in the form of high unemployment rates, wide areas of poverty and increases in crime. An informal sector
has developed as a result of unemployment and this poses another challenge to the
country's economic development.

In 2005 Moodys raised South Africa's sovereign rating one notch higher to Baa1.
Moody's cited the marked improvement in SA's foreign exchange reserves and faster
economic growth as justifying a higher grade.

4.1. Industry sectors

Mining is South Africa's largest industry sector followed by manufacturing, oil and gas,
chemicals, agriculture and tourism. The clothing and textiles, financial services and
banking sectors have shown significant growth in recent years.

South Africa is globally recognised as being a leading supplier of a variety of minerals
and mineral products that are exported to as many as 87 countries. Each year,
approximately 55 different minerals are produced from more than 700 mining facilities,
with gold, platinum group elements (PGE's), coal and diamonds dominating exports
and revenue earnings.

The structure of the mining industry is set to change dramatically, following the
introduction of South Africa's new Mining Charter that cedes all mineral rights to the
State as well as introducing an empowerment component for all future mining
developments in the country.

Agriculture contributes 4% to the country's GDP and consists largely of cattle and
sheep farming with only 13% of land used for growing crops. Maize is most widely
grown followed by wheat, oats, sugar cane and sunflowers. The government is working
to develop small-scale farming in efforts to boost job creation. Citrus and deciduous
fruits are exported, as are locally produced wines and flowers.

The clothing and textiles industry has showed significant growth as a result of the
Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. The industry earned R791 million in 2001 from
exports to the US alone, an increase of 51% from the year before.

The conference and exhibition industry earned South Africa R17.4 billion in 2001 and
created 246 000 new jobs. South Africa has a 2.5% share of the global market for this
industry. Johannesburg is the most popular event venue with over 37% of all events
held there and Cape Town is becoming more popular with the construction of the Cape
Town International Convention Centre to be completed in 2002.
4.2. Investment

Since 1994 the government of South Africa has taken steps to make the country more open to foreign investment. In 1997 the Department of Trade and Industry launched a national investment agency called Investment South Africa tasked with the promotion of investment at a national and provincial level. The agency also provides investment requirements and opportunities available in every province. There is no restriction on the extent or type of foreign investment in South Africa.

The government has tried to encourage both foreign and domestic investment by the introduction of incentives. These cover all industries and encourage investment in the form of finance, technology, knowledge and skills.

4.3. Communications and Infrastructure

South Africa’s communication system is well-developed with 5.5 million installed telephones and 4.3 million installed exchange lines. The network is almost entirely digital with digital microwave and fibre optics serving as the main transmission media. Internet access is widely available. State-controlled Telkom is responsible for the installation and maintenance of these facilities.

A second fixed line operator was expected to be licensed in 2002, but this is expected to happen in 2005. This is one of the reform measures being undertaken by the government in order to promote empowerment in the industry. The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) is the regulator of the communications industry while the Department of Communication is the responsible government body. The communications industry is undergoing reform through measures South Africa is the world’s fourth fastest growing GSM market with a growth rate of 50% per annum. There are three operators in the country namely; MTN, Cell C and Vodacom.

The country’s transport infrastructure is highly developed with extensive road and rail networks. The Department of Transport is responsible for the upkeep of roads. The national road system links all major cities.

Spoornet controls the rail system though Metrorail provides public transport services. The rail system links major centres and is used extensively by heavy industry for freight transport.

Electricity and water services are available in all urban areas and most rural areas although there are shortfalls in some rural areas.
5. **Health**

The Department of Health is the government body responsible for the country’s health facilities, which include well-equipped hospitals and primary healthcare clinics. The government has placed much emphasis on the primary healthcare sector specifically in rural and poorer areas. Treatment for TB available free of charge at all clinics. Malaria is endemic in the low-altitude areas of the Northern Province, Mpumalanga and north-eastern KwaZulu-Natal and the highest-risk area is a strip of about 100 km along the Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland border.

Costs for admission to private and provincial hospitals vary and private hospitals usually require proof of membership to a medical scheme/aid.

The Department of Health has initiated the Extended Expanded Programme on Immunisation that aims to make immunisation facilities available to all children and women of child-bearing age. Immunisations against TB, whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B and measles are available free of charge to all children up to the age of five years.

6. **AFS Rules**

Due to the high level of crime in South Africa, particularly in large cities and townships where we have hosting communities, the safety of our students must remain our top priority. It is crucial that students understand the possible seriousness of violating host family and chapter rules regarding their behavior, as the consequences may be mugging, rape, HIV infection or worse. We ask that you please communicate to students that we expect them to behave in a responsible and “street – wise” manner in order to avoid possible harm. Obedience to Afs International Rules, host family and chapter guidelines are essential.

Violation of certain rules will result in an Early Return if a student fails to abide by safety regulations.

6.1. **Automatic Early Return (Red Card):**

- Driving.
- Drugs.
- Hitchhiking.
6.2. Behavioral Non-compliance (Yellow Card).

- Breaking host family curfew or other rules of the home.
- Excessive Drinking of alcohol.
- Promiscuous and dangerous sexual behavior.
- Irregular school attendance, non-participation or changing school without permission.
- Changing host family without proper AFS procedure
- Absence from required AFS events and orientations.
- Choice of friends or relationships not approved by host family or chapter.
- Sleeping away from home and traveling without permission.
- Disobey orders/instructions from AFS representative/official.
- Continuous self-exposure to dangerous situations, walking alone after dark, going to notorious nightclubs or shebeens (taking unknown taxis).

Three yellow card violations will mean an Early Return for Students in the interest of their own safety and the reputation of AFS Interculture South Africa.

7. ARRIVAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Below you will find input from sending partners for the 2001-02 annual hosting assessment for South Africa. We are very aware that the security situation in South Africa is worrying for sending partners and natural parents, however we would also like to explain the precautions taken to ensure that hosted participants are safe.

Each group of participants hosted in South Africa receives an arrival orientation. The length and intensity of this orientation varies depending on the amount of information we believe the programme participants need to know. Intensive Programme participants attend a one-day orientation in their local community; Year Programme participants attend a 2-3 day national orientation which is coordinated by the National Office hosting staff and also attended by volunteers; and Community Service participants – those who are independent and most involved in the community, and therefore more at risk – attend a 10 day orientation coordinated and run by the National Office staff.

7.1. Topics covered:

7.1.1. AIDS

The statistics, how it is transmitted, how to avoid contracting AIDS. Also information about dating and what is acceptable to South African families.
7.1.2. Rules

Most of the AFS Interculture South Africa rules are designed to protect the student. The rules are discussed, and it is explained that in the interest of safety participants may be sent home for not adhering to these rules.

7.1.3. Safety guidelines

Participants are given written documents on safety guidelines. They are also told to speak to their host families and the volunteers in the area about safety in their community. Volunteers are aware of these guidelines, and they are also shared with the host families and volunteers.

7.1.4. Emergency Procedures

All participants are told to contact the National Office (or emergency phone) immediately if something happens to them. This enables the staff to give them proper support, and to ensure that everyone is notified of the situation. Staff members who are trained to handle emergency situations carry the emergency mobile phone.

Volunteers from all Chapters are also given documents relating to Emergency Procedures, and are trained on the steps to take when dealing with an emergency situation.

Although we have a high crime rate, we have never had a very serious situation involving a participant. Those participants who have their belongings stolen or are approached by criminals are generally (although not always) those who have relaxed and who believe that they don’t have to listen to the rules of their community. Safety guidelines are discussed at every orientation during the year.

7.2. A typical Arrival Orientation program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07:00</td>
<td>Fetch GER [x7], PAR [x5], SUI [x2] stus from JNB: Backpackers’ shuttle &amp; Timm</td>
<td>Breakfast served from 07:00 till 09:00</td>
<td>Breakfast served from 07:00 till 09:00</td>
<td>Durban [x2 stus] go to bus station for 08:30 departure on SA Roadlink - Timm</td>
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<tr>
<td>07:30</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>08:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Breakfast [26 people]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Activity</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>08:30</td>
<td>Breakfast [x6]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Session 5: Gender &amp; Sex Related Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Host Family Orientation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Fetch ARG [x2] &amp; USA [x2] stus - Backpackers shuttle &amp; Timm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Cape Town &amp; Mosselbay [x7 stus] go to JNB for flight CE506/12:15 &amp; 1T109/12:45 – Backpackers shuttle &amp; Timm &amp; Dominic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>GER, PAR &amp; SUI stus arrive at Backpackers: refresh, rest and settle until 13:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Collect tickets (&amp; make copies of passports)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Close of Event</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Session 6: Safety Tips AFS Rules and Related Issues</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Fetch GUA [x1] stu from JNB: Backpackers’ shuttle &amp; Timm OR Dominic</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Lunch [22 people]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Lunch [23 people] &amp; Free Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Session 1: Icebreakers &amp; Games</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Session 7: Cultural Diversity in South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>Lunch [x5 people] Free Afternoon</td>
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<td>14:30</td>
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</table>
8. COMMENTS FROM PARTNERS

Input from AFS Partners in their assessment of the hosting program in South Africa.

8.1. Netherlands

"When visiting South Africa, larger cities in particular, travelers need to take precautions because of regularly occurring robberies which may involve violence. It's advised to visit townships only with a chaperon who knows the area. Use of public transportation (trains) especially around larger cities is not recommended. When traveling by car it's advised to use only larger highways and around larger cities to only make stops at gas stations and roadside restaurants. Do not pick up hitchhikers."

8.2. United Kingdom

Most visits are trouble-free.

Crime levels are high and muggings are common day and night. Passport theft is common. Some vehicle hijacking and armed robbery. High incidence of rape.

Terrorism - sporadic bomb explosions in Cape Town - tourists advised to be vigilant especially in busy commercial areas.
8.3. Italy

The staff at the Consulate, over the phone, provided the following information:

The country at present is quite safe. The social unrest seems to have come to an end. Of course, it would be advisable for adolescents not to go alone into the "townships" on the outskirts of the towns and cities. However all other safety precautions would be the same as for any other country (looking car doors, locking the house when in, etc).

As the families where the students will be placed are selected by the organisation there and the schools too, there should be no problems or dangers for any youngsters coming to the country in these two areas. The countryside is very rich and varied according to the location. The climate ranges from Mediterranean to sub tropical. No specific vaccinations are required for entry by the country. There are no indications from this source that would constitute any danger to exchange students who are under the "protection" of an organization.

8.4. France

"South Africa, both in cities and rural areas, is affected by a high rate of criminality (robberies, attacks, rapes, murders...).

However, tourists visiting the country on organized trips are rarely confronted with such problems. On the other hand, those who travel on their own are much more vulnerable, especially when they use public transport and it is clear that they are tourists (rucksack, camera...).

Visitors are advised not to wander into the downtown area of big cities after office hours (4pm) and at night. Also, they must not go to townships alone. Hitchhiking is not safe.

There is a high rate of severe or lethal car accidents. This is mainly due to people traveling at high speeds and ignoring red lights.

The railway structure is very good but it is not safe to board an empty wagon. Also, it is worth noting that many attacks against tourists have been registered on the railway journey between Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Regarding health conditions. AIDS is becoming an increasingly significant problem within South Africa. Besides, a cholera epidemic has appeared in Sept. 2000 in the area of Kwa Zulu-Natal and the disease seems to have spread to nearby areas."

8.5. Switzerland

Attached you’ll find the internet address from the office of foreign affair of Switzerland where you can find the advisory information for all countries in German, French or Italian.

www.eda.admin.ch
8.6. New Zealand

Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade do not have specific New Zealand advisories for these two countries but refer people to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. I have included the advisories from the Australian government below.

Travelers to South Africa are advised to maintain a high level of personal security awareness and remain vigilant in light of continued concern over the high level of violent crime.

Visitors should take appropriate security precautions avoid isolated areas and should not walk alone, particularly at night and during weekends in the major city areas. Robbery, armed assault, theft and pick pocketing are prevalent, particularly in the centers of Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg and Pretoria. Mobile phones and video cameras should be stored out of sight when not in use as these is attractive items for thieves. Travelers should avoid displaying jewellery. Car theft, sometimes with accompanying violence, is also rife. Visitors should take care to protect important documents (passport, credit cards, driving licenses and valuables) at all times. Central Johannesburg (especially around the railway station), as well as townships and their surrounding areas should be avoided.

Australians visiting Cape Town should remain vigilant and wary of suspicious packages, particularly when visiting popular tourist venues over the peak holiday season.

Aids is endemic and safe sex practices are essential. Malaria is also prevalent in the Northern Provinces and Kwa Zulu Natal, especially during the rainy season (November to April). Travelers should seek additional information on health issues, including appropriate vaccinations, from a doctor before arrival.

Travel and medical insurance is strongly recommended for all overseas travel. Travelers should check with their insurer to make sure that their policy meets their needs.

9. Communication

South Africa has 11 official languages. Most people other than rural black Africans speak English, although not many as a first language. Afrikaans is also widely-spoken, especially by the white and coloured population. Often Afrikaans is incorrectly called 'afrikan' or 'african' by foreigners. Note this is very incorrect as 'African' for a South African corresponds with the native-african languages: Zulu, Xhosa, Pedi etc. (and, of course, there are thousands of languages in Africa so no single language can be called 'African') Afrikaans has roots in Dutch, so it can be understood by Dutch speakers and sometimes deciphered by German speakers. Other widely spoken languages are Zulu (mainly in KwaZulu-Natal) and Xhosa (mainly in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape), as well as Sotho and Venda. This changes, according to the region you are in.
A few words you may encounter are:

- *lekker* - Enjoyable
- *howzit* - How is it?
- *yebo* - Yes
- *boet, bru, china or ou* - Brother or man
- *koppie* - A small hill
- *Madiba* - Nelson Mandela
- *robot* - Traffic light
- *tannie* - Respectful term for an older woman
- *tinkle* - Phone.

10. STAYING SAFE

South Africa has a relatively high crime rate. However, warnings about crime should be taken in context. The threat is not as serious as it might sound. If you are alert and take some common-sense precautions then you will have no problems. (Do not wear jewelry or expensive watches, do not wear a tummy bag with all your valuables, distribute your valuables in inside pockets and other pockets, do not wear large sums of money etc. do not walk by night in dark places.) Don't make it obvious you are a tourist - conceal your camera and binoculars, know where to go so that you don't have to reveal you're lost or need a map, simply all the obvious "I am a tourist" signs.

Visiting the townships is possible, but don't do it alone unless you really know where you're going. Some townships are safe while others can be extremely dangerous. It's best to go with an experienced guide. Some tour companies offer guided visits to the townships, and this is perfectly safe.

South Africa has very few earthquakes, cyclones, tornados, floods, terrorist incidents or contagious diseases (with the exception of AIDS and malaria).

Please also note that taking an evening stroll, or walking to venues after dark can be very risky! It simply is NOT part of the culture there, as it is in Europe or the US. Best to take a taxi or private vehicle for an "evening out".

Stay healthy
The HIV infection rate varies from around 13% in the Western Cape, to about 33% in the provinces around Gauteng and Mpumalanga; therefore, for your own safety, DO NOT HAVE UNPROTECTED SEX.

The north-eastern areas of the country (including the Kruger Park and St. Lucia and surrounds) are seasonal malaria zones, from about November to May. The peak danger time is just after the wet season from March to May. Consult a physician regarding appropriate precautions, depending on the time of year you will be travelling.
The most important defenses against malaria are:
using mosquito repellent with DEET concentration greater than 50%;
covering your skin with long-sleeved clothing, especially around dusk; and
using mosquito nets while sleeping.

Municipal water is mostly safe to drink throughout the country, although a strong risk of bilharzia exists for stillstanding water. In the Western Cape mountain water is safe, even if it has been stained brown due to vegetation.

The private hospitals are of the highest standard.

Pack sunscreen.

11. RESPECT

Those who are practiced in North American racial terminology should understand that familiar words have different meanings in South Africa. A typical white person born here considers himself as "African" as any person born in the United States considers himself "American"; most have family who have lived here for generations. If you wish to refer to South Africans of solely African ancestry, "black" – the term used under apartheid – is still considered appropriate. "Coloured", on the other hand, is neither synonymous with "black", nor particularly offensive; it refers to a cultural group with both white and black ancestors from the early colonial period. Although the majority of white South Africans speak Afrikaans, that is not their ethnicity; call them "white" or "white South African". The fourth racial category left over from the apartheid system is "Indian" (from India). It might help to practice thinking "black South African" instead of "African American".

12. CONTACT

South Africa’s country code is 27. Each region or city has an area code which is prefixed with a '0' when dialing long distance within South Africa. Johannesburg: 011. Cape Town: 021. Durban: 031.

To dial out of South Africa, dial 09 then country code, etc.

South Africa has an extensive GSM network, working on the same frequency as the rest of Africa and Europe. There are three cell phone providers in South Africa: Vodacom, MTN, and Cell-C.
There are plenty of Internet cafes and access rates are cheap. Even cheaper would be to buy a prepaid cell phone starter pack (less than 10 rand) and access the internet with GPRS (2 rand per MB).

13. MEDIA

South Africa is the continent's major media player, and its many broadcasters and publications reflect the diversity of the population. Established state-run and commercial TV networks broadcast nationally, and hundreds of thousands of viewers subscribe to satellite and cable pay-TV services.

Deregulation in 1996 led to a proliferation of radio stations. Listeners in Johannesburg alone can choose from among some 40 radio services, from the national broadcasts of the state-owned South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) to community stations targeting local neighbourhoods or ethnic groups.

The constitution provides for freedom of the press, and this is generally respected. Laws, regulation and political control of media content are considered to be moderate and there is little evidence of repressive measures against journalists. Newspapers and magazines publish reports and comment critical of the government and the state-owned SABC is far more independent now than during the apartheid era.

13.1. The press

- The Star - Johannesburg-based daily, city's oldest newspaper
- The Sowetan - Johannesburg-based tabloid
- Daily Sun - mass-circulation tabloid
- Beeld - largest Afrikaans daily
- Mail and Guardian - weekly
- Business Day - daily
- Financial Mail - business weekly
- Sunday Times - South Africa's oldest Sunday newspaper

13.2. Television

- SABC - state broadcaster, operates three national TV networks, two pay-TV channels
- e.tv - free-to-air commercial network
- M-Net - pay-TV, pan-African audience
13.3. Radio

- SABC - state broadcaster with 20 regional and national services in 11 languages, including: national English-language network SAfm; contemporary music station 5 FM; national Afrikaans station Radio Sonder Grense; national Zulu station Ukhozi FM; Sesotho station Lesedi FM
- Channel Africa - SABC’s external radio service, targeted at the African continent
- YFM - popular Johannesburg commercial R&B, soul and hip-hop station
- 702 Talk Radio - Johannesburg commercial news and talk station

13.4. News agency

- South African Press Association (SAPA)