

VISTA

Destination guide to stunning South Africa

South Africa is a land of stunning landscapes, diverse wildlife, rich history and vibrant culture. From the bustling cities of Johannesburg and Cape Town to the breathtaking scenery along the Garden Route and the wildlife of Kruger National Park, South Africa offers an unforgettable experience for every traveller.

There are so many opportunities to fit the array of travel styles and budgets in South Africa. Whether travellers are working to a budget, looking for luxury or hoping to meet new friends on a group tour; South Africa really has it all. Cape Town & Johannesburg offer the perfect base for a city break and also act as excellent starting points for Safari.

Having been voted the best value holiday destination for UK Travellers for 2024, South Africa is fastly becoming known for it's incredible gastronomy as well as it's impeccable wines. For comparison, a glass of wine in South Africa costs £2.72 compared with the USA where, at its cheapest, is £6.21 per glass. This is only highlighted by Conde West voting Cape Town as the "best city in the world" for food for 2025.

VISTA / *Getting there*

Several major airlines offer direct and connecting flights to South Africa. Direct flights from the UK are available with British Airways and Virgin Atlantic, landing in Johannesburg or Cape Town.

Emirates, Qatar Airways, and Turkish Airlines also provide one-stop routes via their hubs, offering flexibility and potential stopover experiences.



Flight Duration

London to Johannesburg:

11 hours

London to Cape Town:

11.5 hours



Average Flight Cost

Approximately £600-£900pp (2024-2025), depending on the season.



Booking Tips

Book 6-9 months in advance for the best rates, especially for peak seasons (January-March).



Best Time to Fly

Travel is most affordable from April to September, with fewer crowds.

VISTA / *A seasonal guide*

South Africa's climate varies depending on region, making it a perfect year-round destination. The region has four distinct seasons each offering unique opportunities.

SPRING

(September - November)

Safari conditions are ideal, with comfortable temperatures and active game at this time of year. There are also increased opportunities to see newborns as they begin to emerge into the bush.

Ideal destinations

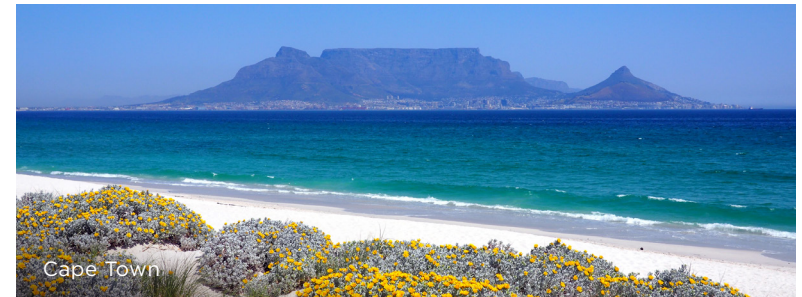


SUMMER

(December - February)

Summer is ideal for beach vacations in Cape Town, Durban and the Garden Route with warmer temperatures and little rains offering a range of available excursions

Ideal destinations



AUTUMN

(March - May)

With mild weather and fewer crowds, this is the best time to explore the Cape Winelands - Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Paarl and continue along the Garden Route.

Ideal destinations

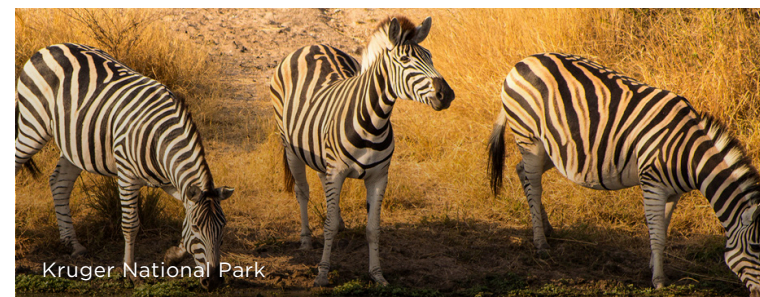
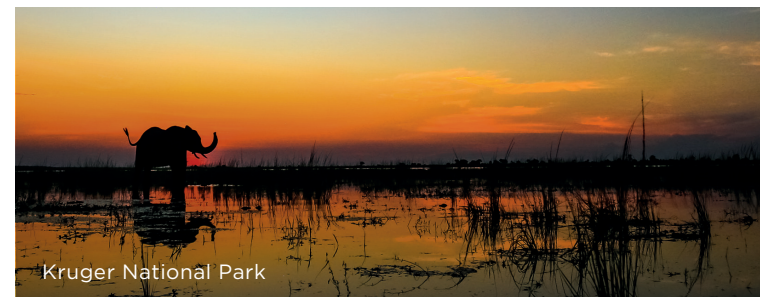


WINTER

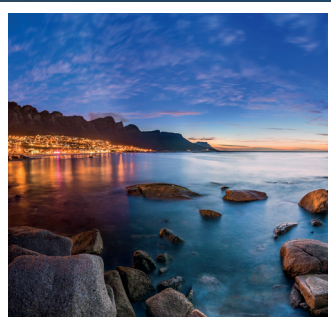
(June - August)

Excellent for wildlife viewing in Kruger and other game reserves as animals gather around waterholes. Safari conditions remain ideal, with comfortable temperatures.

Ideal destinations



VISTA / Cape Town & Surrounds



Cape Town is the vibrant capital city of South Africa, located on the southern western tip of South Africa. The city is nestled between the prominent Table Mountain and the Atlantic Ocean offering an abundance of outdoor experiences, locations of cultural significance, animal encounters as well as world class dining and shopping options.

Top Attractions

Table Mountain & Lions Head: Take a cable car or hike to the summit for breathtaking views.

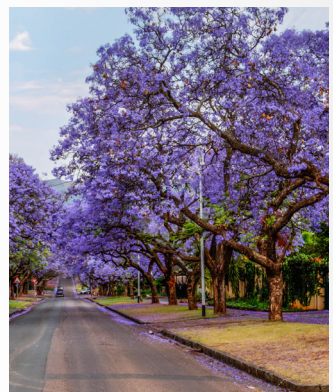
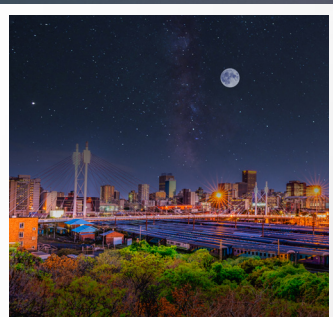
Robben Island: Visit the historic prison where Nelson Mandela spent 18 years.

V&A Waterfront: Wide range of shopping, dining and entertainment options.

Cape Winelands: Stellenbosch and Franschhoek offer world-class wine tasting as well as the famous wine tram experience.

Cape Point & Boulders Beach: Experience stunning coastal scenery and come face to face with the African Penguins in it's natural habitat. One of only several places in the world where penguins have made their beach, home.

VISTA / Johannesburg & Pretoria



Johannesburg is a vibrant and cosmopolitan where thought-provoking museums and rich cultural experiences meet upscale shopping and fine dining in the likes of Sandton and Rosebank. Just a short distance away, historic Pretoria stands as the political heart of South Africa, home to significant monuments, influential buildings, and a wealth of museums. For leisure and adventure, the iconic Sun City offers a dazzling mix of indoor and outdoor activities closeby, perfect for both families and couples alike.

Johannesburg is one of your main access points to the Kruger National Park. This allows for a great pairing of City and Safari, with the hope of spotting the “Big 5”.

Top Attractions

Johannesburg Apartheid Museum: Gain insights into South Africa’s past.

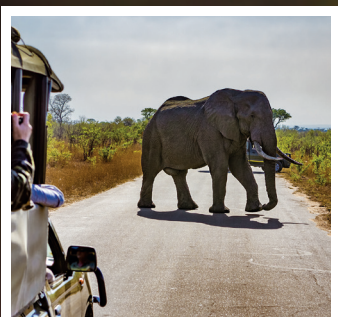
Soweto Township: Visit Nelson Mandela’s former home.

Grampians National Park: Known for scenic hiking trails, Aboriginal rock art sites, and wildlife spotting.

Cradle of Humankind: A UNESCO site exploring the stunning origins of human history.

Union Buildings, Pretoria: The seat of South Africa’s government.

VISTA / *Kruger National Park & Safari Reserves*



The Kruger National Park is South Africa's most famous and iconic Big 5 safari destination. At nearly 5 million acres, Kruger offers a multitude of landscapes and habitats with over 150 recorded mammal species and 500 varieties of bird species. This is an animal lovers heaven. Many Reserves within the National Park observe a no fence policy that allows free roam for all game. These Reserves also offer the added benefit of off-road driving that allows for an up-close wildlife experience.

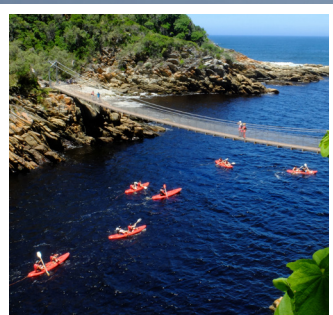
Kruger is serviced by airports such as Hoedspruit, Kruger Mpumalanga Airport and Skukuza Airport. Best time to visit is May - September for optimal game viewing.

Top Attractions

Big Five Safari: Lions, elephants, leopards, rhinos, and buffalo in their natural habitat.

Luxury Lodges & Camps: A range of accommodations from 3* budget to 5*+ ultra-luxurious.

VISTA / *Garden Route & Eastern Cape*



From contrasting landscapes, quaint villages and laid-back seaside towns the Garden Route is guaranteed to offer a journey unique to each traveller. With so many destinations to experience along the way, there are a multitude of ways to enjoy the journey based on your own personal interests. Hermanus will allow you to catch a glimpse of the Southern Right Whale migration, George is a Golf-enthusiasts paradise and the small coastal towns of Wilderness, Knysna and Plettenberg Bay offer a contrast of rugged wilderness and sweeping beaches. For a more rural approach, Route 62 is the perfect option offering valleys, vineyards and the chance to see alternative wildlife like Ostriches and Meerkats in desert like Oudtshoorn.

The Eastern Cape and city of Gqeberha, formerly Port Elizabeth signifies the end of the traditional Route. However, this is just the start of some the country's most accessible Big Five game viewing. The Eastern Cape reserves are malaria free, and each National Park and Reserve offers a unique gaming experience all within a 1-2 hour drive of Port Elizabeth.

Top Attractions

Knysna & Plettenberg Bay: Beautiful beaches, forests, and lagoons.

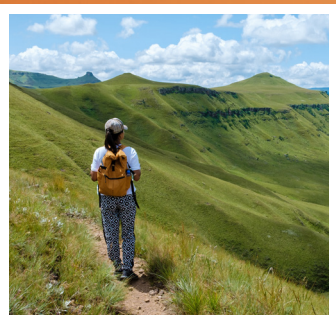
Tsitsikamma National Park: Adventure seekers can enjoy zip-lining and hiking.

Addo Elephant National Park: One of the best spots to see wild elephant herds.

Eastern Cape Game Reserves: Amakhala, Kariega, Pumba and Shamwari are some of the well-known options available in this area.



VISTA / *KwaZulu-Natal & Drakensberg*



KwaZulu-Natal is a very dynamic region boasting an authentic Southern Africa experience. Travellers can expect to explore historic battlefields understanding Zulu history, explore stunning beaches as well as Big 5 encounters and rich Wetlands. With the dramatic Drakensburg Mountains overtaking the west of the region and the Indian Ocean to the east, this region offers true variety.

Top Attractions

Durban: Beaches like Cottesloe, Kings Park, and Perth Cultural Centre.

Drakensberg Mountains: Incredible hiking, ancient San rock art and quaint hotels.

Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park & St. Lucia: One of Africa's oldest Game Reserves & Wetlands

Central Drakensberg: The Battlefields – Spioenkop, Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. Historical sites, centred around the conflicts during Angol-Zulu and Anglo Boer wars.

VISTA / *Rail in South Africa*



Rail journeys in South Africa specifically the Rovos Rail, offers the opportunity to experience the richness of Southern Africa onboard a luxury and authentically refurbished Edwardian style train. The rail network offers travel between Cape Town and Pretoria, Pretoria and Durban as well as Victoria Falls. With the silver service experience, indulgent fine dining and comfortable accommodation are standard all whilst taking in the stunning vistas passing by.

Travel Tips

Currency: South African Rand (ZAR)

Time Zone: GMT+2

Visa Requirements: UK, EU, and US citizens can visit for up to 90 days visa-free.

Safety: Be aware of your surroundings, especially in urban areas. Opt for guided tours where possible.

South Africa's diversity ensures there's something for every traveller, whether it's adventure, history, or relaxation. Plan your visit to experience this remarkable country!

VISTA / Suggested Itineraries

CAPE TOWN, THE GARDEN ROUTE & EASTERN CAPE SAFARI

Cape Town

Highlights:

Table Mountain & Lion's Head

The V&A Waterfront

Cape Point

Robben Island

⋮

Garden Route

Highlights:

Franschoek

Hermanus

Swellendam

Wilderness

Knysna

Plettenberg Bay

Eastern Cape Safari

CAPE TOWN, JOHANNESBURG AND KRUGER

Cape Town

Highlights:

Table Mountain & Lion's Head

The V&A Waterfront

Cape Point

Robben Island

Shark cage diving or whale watching

⋮

Johannesburg

Highlights:

Apartheid Museum

Soweto Township

⋮

Kruger National Park

Highlights:

Sabi Sand Game Reserve

Timbavati Private Nature Reserve

Thornybush Nature Reserve

Entry Requirements

For passengers travelling on a full British Citizen passport it must have an expiry date at least 30 days after the date you leave South Africa and have at least 2 blank pages. You can visit South Africa without a visa for up to 90 days for both business and tourism

For dual nationals who are South African citizens and over the age of 18 you must use your South African passport to enter and exit the country

When taking money into South Africa you must declare if you are bringing more than 25,000 Rand per person or if in another currency combined if the amount is worth more than USD10,000

Please check the FCDO for all up to date travel requirements before booking your passengers holiday to ensure they have the relevant documents to enter the country.