



## Country Profile: South Africa

South Africa is in many respects a developed country, but much of its population lives in poverty. All major urban areas have modern, world-class hotels and tourist facilities. Game parks and areas most often visited by tourists have a wide range of facilities. Food and water are generally safe, and a wide variety of consumer goods and pharmaceuticals are readily available. The capital is Pretoria, while the seat of parliament is located in Cape Town. Johannesburg is the financial capital and largest city in South Africa. Durban is home to Africa's busiest port and is the number one tourist destination for South Africans. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on South Africa for additional information

### COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	South Africa
Continent:	Africa
Capital City:	Pretoria
Boundary Countries:	Botswana 1,840 km, Lesotho 909 km, Mozambique 491 km, Namibia 967 km, Swaziland 430 km, Zimbabwe 225 km.
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	East London Private Hospital (Pretoria), George Medi-Clinic (Margate), Hibiscus Private Hospital (Johannesburg), Linksfield Park Clinic (Pretoria), Margate Private Hospital (Port Shepstone), Olivedale Clinic (George), Panorama Medi-Clinic (Panorama), Pretoria East Private Hospital (East London), St. Dominic's Hospital (East London), St. James Private Hospital (East London), Unitas Hospital (Johannesburg).
Main Cities:	Pretoria, Capetown, Johannesburg, East London, Durban, Richards Bay, Messina, Bloemfontein, Ladysmith.
Country Size:	1,219,912 sq km - note: includes Prince Edwards Islands
Population:	44,187,637

### COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	IsiZulu 23.8%, IsiXhosa 17.6%, Afrikaans 13.3%, Sepedi 9.4%, English 8.2%, Setswana 8.2%, Sesotho 7.9%, Xitsonga 4.4%, other 7.2%.
Currency:	Rand (ZAR)
Predominant Religions:	Zion Christian 11.1%, Pentecostal/Charismatic 8.2%, Catholic 7.1%, Methodist 6.8%, Dutch Reformed 6.7%, Anglican 3.8%, other Christian 36%, Islam 1.5%, other 2.3%, unspecified 1.4%, none 15.1%.
National Holidays:	Freedom Day, 27 April (1994)
Economic Status:	South Africa is a middle-income, emerging market with an abundant supply of natural resources; well-developed financial, legal, communications, energy, and transport sectors; a stock exchange that ranks among the 10 largest in the world; and a modern infrastructure supporting an efficient distribution of goods to major urban centers throughout the region.
Security:	South African National Defense Force (SANDF): South African Army, South African Navy (SAN), South African Air Force (SAAF), Joint Operations Command, Joint Support Command, Military Intelligence, Military Health Service.

<b>US Presence:</b>	<p><a href="#"><u>U.S. Embassy Pretoria</u></a>  877 Pretorius St  Arcadia, Pretoria  Phone: +27 (12) 431-4000  Fax: +27 (12) 342-2299</p> <p><a href="#"><u>U.S. Consulate General in Cape Town</u></a>  2 Reddam Ave  Westlake 7945  Phone: +27 (21) 702-7300  Fax: +27 (21) 702-7493</p> <p><a href="#"><u>U.S. Embassy in U.S. Consulate General in Durban</u></a>  303 Dr. Pixley KaSeme Street  31st Floor  Delta Towers  Durban  4001  Phone: +27 (31) 305-7600  Fax: +27 (31) 305-7691</p> <p><a href="#"><u>U.S. Consulate General in Johannesburg</u></a>  1 Sandton Drive  Sandhurst  Phone: +27 (11) 290-3000  Fax: +27 (11) 884-0396</p>
<b>Major Airports:</b>	Airports: 731, Airports w/paved runways: 146

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