

South Africa

- Country Overview and Map
- Cape Town
- Khayelitsha
- The Eastern Transvaal

Overview and Map

South Africa's scenic wonders are legendary. From Table Mountain to God's Window, the mountains, forests, coasts, and deserts will provide a feast for your eyes and lift your spirit. Situated at the southern tip of Africa, South Africa has a landmass of 1,233,404 square kilometers, edged on three sides by a nearly 3,000km coastline washed by the Indian and Atlantic oceans. It is bordered to the north by Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and also wraps itself around two independent countries: Lesotho and Swaziland. A well-known fact about South Africa is that since 1994 it has enjoyed democratic government, the apartheid policies of the past overthrown. South Africa's constitution is regarded as an example to the world, and enshrines a wide scope of human rights protected by an independent judiciary. The country is headed by President Jacob Zuma of the African National Congress (ANC).



Since the demise of Apartheid, international tourist arrivals have surged, making tourism one of the fastest growing sectors. The tourism industry is well-established with an exciting sector of emerging entrepreneurs. The country is strong on adventure, sport, nature, and wildlife travel and is a pioneer and global leader in responsible tourism. The South African population of more than 49 million people is extremely diverse. Black Africans are in the majority, approximately 80% of the population, followed by a white population of approximately 4.4 million, the coloured population of 4.2 million, and the Indian/Asian population of approximately 1.2 million.

South Africa has a temperate climate and is known for its long sunny days, hence the title: 'Sunny South Africa'. Most of the provinces have summer

rainfall, except for the Western Cape (winter rainfall). Winter stretches from May to August, spring from September to October, summer from November to February, and autumn from March to April. South Africa is a multi-lingual country: its 11 official languages include English, Afrikaans, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Siswati, Tshivenda, and Xitsonga.

Cape Town



Mother City of Africa and the Western Cape, and an area that is regarded as one of the most beautiful regions in the world. The city is a rare cultural gem, resulting from the amalgamation of Indonesian, French, Dutch, British, and German settlers, the local Bushman and Hottentot tribes and the Bantu tribes from the north.

The impressive presence of Table Mountain, flanked by the legendary Devil's Peak and historical Signal Hill, stands proudly above the city. Beautiful white sandy beaches along a peaceful coastline frame the Cape Peninsula, which is famed for its unique floral kingdom, bountiful rivers, vleis and dams and magnificent countryside. The surrounding area extends far into the wine lands, green in summer and red-gold in autumn.

Cape Town boasts a multitude of entertainment, ranging from outdoor activities and adventures in the sun to a roaring night life under neon signs. The vast range of shopping opportunities includes haggling with shopkeepers at Greenmarket Square Flea Market, as well as breezing through sophisticated and stylish shopping malls. The huge variety of restaurants reflects the multicultural history of the Cape and caters for everyone's tastes, from fast-food outlets and casual to the chic to the very elegant.

Khayelitsha



In the early 1980s the Apartheid government decided to move all 'legal' black people from existing townships to a new township. The government classified people as legal if they had already lived in the area for ten years. The new township's name – Khayelitsha – means 'new home'.

Today Kayelitsha has an estimated population of one million, and runs for a number of kilometers along the N2 highway. The ethnic makeup of Khayelitsha is approximately 90.5% Black African and 8.5% Coloured and even has 0.5% White residents, with Xhosa being the predominant language of the residents. Khayelitsha has a very young population. Fewer than 7% of its residents are over 50 years old and 40% of its residents are under 19 years of age. About 75% of residents consider themselves Christian while about 20% are not religious and a negligible amount consider themselves Muslim.

Khayelitsha is today reputed to be the largest township in South Africa. Since the ANC came to power in 1994, the ruling party claims that living conditions in the township have improved markedly. There have been many developments such as new brick housing, new schools, and the creation of a central business district in the township. However, many residents strongly dispute that living conditions have improved.

The Eastern Transvaal



Eastern Transvaal, often referred to as "Big Game Country", is the setting for dozens of sanctuaries teeming with wildlife and birds. Among them, the Kruger National Park is world renowned, as are several of the luxurious private reserves on its western boundary. The entire area offers exceptional opportunities for bird-watching, hiking, horseback riding, and fishing. Streams once panned for gold have become the haunts of eager anglers and lazy trout. Eastern Transvaal is steeped in the history of pioneers, hunters and fortune-seekers.

Nelspruit is the capital of the province of Mpumalanga. The city lies in the fertile valley of the Crocodile River, 330 km east of Johannesburg in the hot and humid Lowveld. The Malelane Gate, southern access to the Kruger Park, is about 60 km away. Nelspruit is the trading center for the surrounding fruit-growing area of Mpumalanga. Fertile soils and a subtropical climate provide perfect conditions for the production of citrus and tropical fruits, mainly mango, banana, avocado, macadamia and pecan nuts.