



South Africa, Johannesburg & Rosebank

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General Overview & History

South Africa

The Republic of South Africa is located at the southern tip of Africa. The South African coast stretches 2,798 kilometres (1,739 miles) and borders both the Atlantic and Indian oceans. To the north of South Africa lie Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, to the east are Mozambique and Swaziland, while the Kingdom of Lesotho is an independent enclave surrounded by South African territory.

Modern man has inhabited South Africa for more than 100,000 years and the country contains some of the oldest archaeological sites in the world. Extensive fossil remains at the Sterkfontein, Kromdraai and Makapansgat caves, suggest that various australopithecines existed in South Africa from about three million years ago.

Settlements of Bantu-speaking peoples, who were iron-using agriculturists and herdsmen, were already present south of the Limpopo River by the fourth or fifth century, displacing and absorbing the original KhoiSan speakers. At the time of European contact, South Africa's indigenous peoples reflected migrations from other parts of Africa, where new tribes had become dominant.



Cape Town and Table Mountain, South Africa

In 1487, the Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias became the first European to reach the southernmost point of Africa. Initially named the Cape of Storms, The King of Portugal, John II, renamed it the *Cabo da Boa Esperança* or Cape of Good Hope, as it led to the riches of India. In 1652, Jan van Riebeeck established a refreshment station at the Cape of Good Hope on behalf of the Dutch East India Company, launching a colony that by the end of the 18th century numbered only about 15,000. Known as Boers or Afrikaners, and speaking a Dutch dialect known as Afrikaans, the settlers as early as 1795 tried to establish an independent republic.

After occupying the Cape Colony in that year, Britain took permanent possession in 1815 at the end of the Napoleonic Wars, bringing in 5,000 settlers. Anglicization of government and the freeing of slaves in 1833 drove about 12,000 Afrikaners to make the "great trek" north and east into African tribal territory, where they established the republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

The discovery of diamonds in 1867 and gold nine years later brought an influx of "outlanders" into the republics and spurred Cape Colony prime minister Cecil Rhodes to plot annexation. Rhodes's scheme of sparking an "outlander" rebellion, to which an armed party under Leander Starr Jameson would ride to the rescue, misfired in 1895, forcing Rhodes to resign. What British expansionists called the "inevitable" war with the Boers broke out on Oct. 11, 1899.

The defeat of the Boers in 1902 led in 1910 to the Union of South Africa, composed of four provinces, the two former republics, and the old Cape and Natal colonies. Louis Botha, a Boer, became the first prime minister. Organized political activity among Africans started with the establishment of the African National Congress in 1912.

Jan Christiaan Smuts brought the nation into World War II on the Allied side against Nationalist opposition, and South Africa became a charter member of the United Nations in 1945, but he refused to sign the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The National Party, which had first come to power in 1948, continued its rule for the next three decades. Apartheid - racial separation - dominated domestic politics as the Nationalists gained power. South Africa declared itself a republic in 1961 and severed its ties with the Commonwealth.

In 1960, 70 black protesters were killed during a peaceful demonstration in Sharpsville. The African National Congress (ANC), the principal antiapartheid organization, was banned that year, and in 1964 its leader, Nelson Mandela, was sentenced to life imprisonment. During the 1960s, international opposition to apartheid intensified. The UN imposed sanctions, and many countries divested their South African holdings.

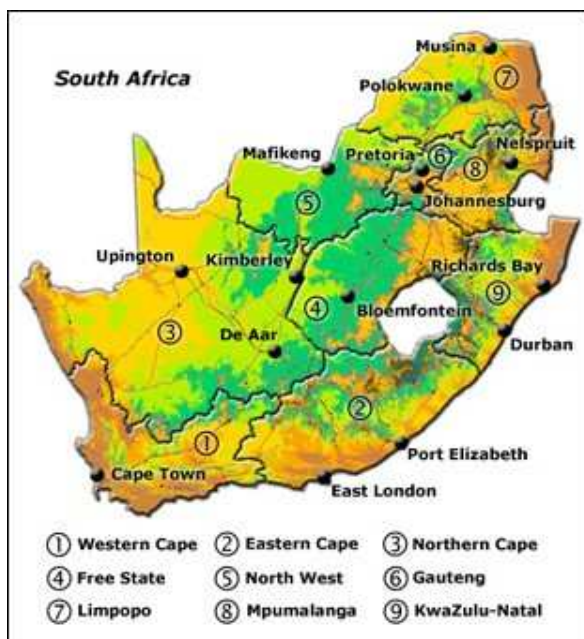
F. W. de Klerk replaced P. W. Botha as president in 1989. De Klerk removed the ban on the ANC and released its leader, Nelson Mandela, after 27 years of imprisonment. In 1991, a multiracial forum led by de Klerk and Mandela, the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), began working on a new constitution. In 1993, an interim constitution was passed, which dismantled apartheid and provided for a multiracial democracy with majority rule. The peaceful transition of South Africa from one of the world's most repressive societies into a democracy is one of the 20th century's most remarkable success stories. Mandela and de Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

The 1994 election resulted in a massive victory for Mandela and his ANC. A new national constitution was approved and adopted in May 1996. Mandela retired in 1999 and Thabo Mbeki, the pragmatic deputy president and leader of the ANC, was elected president in a landslide. In December 2007, African National Committee delegates chose Jacob Zuma as their leader, ousting Mbeki, who had been in control of the party for the last ten years.

Today South Africa is known for its diversity in cultures, languages, and religious beliefs. Eleven official languages are recognised in the constitution. English is the most commonly spoken language in official and commercial public life; however, it is only the fifth most-spoken home language. Ethnically diverse, South Africa has the largest Caucasian, Indian, and racially mixed communities in Africa.

Gauteng Province

South Africa is divided into nine provinces, each with its own legislature, premier and executive council - and distinctive landscape, population, economy and climate. Gauteng Province is the wealthiest and smallest of these provinces. With a total area of 16 548 square kilometres, Gauteng is slightly smaller than the US state of New Jersey. Whilst it claims only 1.4% of South Africa's land area, it contributes 33% to the national economy and a phenomenal 10% to the GDP of the entire African continent. The people of Gauteng have the highest per capita income level in the country. The province blends cultures, colours and first and third-world traditions in a spirited mix, flavoured by a number of foreign influences. The world's languages can be heard on the streets and in offices, from English to Mandarin, Swahili, French, German and more. More than 60% of South Africa's research and development takes place in Gauteng, which has 41% of the country's core biotechnology companies. It's also home to leading research institutions such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the Agricultural Research Council and the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute. <http://www.visitgauteng.net/>



South Africa's nine Provinces

Johannesburg

Johannesburg, the provincial capital of Gauteng province, is South Africa's most populous city, located in the eastern plateau area of the high veld.

Economically, Johannesburg is the financial hub of South Africa. Due to its commercial importance, the city is also site of a number of government branch offices and consular institutions. There are a number of prestigious shopping centres such as Sandton City and Hyde Park, but also a large informal economy of street traders.

Topographically, Johannesburg is located on a small ridge called the Witwatersrand and the city's northern and western suburbs have undulating hills, while the eastern metropolitan area is generally flat. As the city is so large there is great variety to be found in its suburbs.

The suburbs to the south of the city are mainly lower-class residential, along with some townships, while the northern and north-western suburbs such as Houghton have become the centre for wealthy residents. The north-western suburb of Sophiatown is renowned as a hotbed of political activity, and Melville features lively gathering places and nightlife. Soweto is to the south-west of the city, while in the east are Yeoville and several residential areas.

Rosebank

The area now known as Rosebank is part of an original farm called Rosemill Orchards. Plots in the area were first sold by auction in 1896. In 1919 the City Council renamed the streets in honour of British Admirals of World War I and Rosebank and Dunkeld became two of the first suburbs to have trolley-bus transport.

During the late 1940s and 50s the area attracted many developers and Rosebank became one of the prime shopping areas of Johannesburg. The Swedish architect, Max Kirchhoffer, designed a regional retail office and high density residential area in 1972.

In 1976 the development of a R15 million shopping centre situated on Oxford Road was initiated and Rosebank Mall, the Firs, and Mutual Square became fashionable shopping areas. Office blocks including Standard Bank and Johnnic Properties were later constructed by developers.

Rosebank is now a vibrant multi-cultural suburb, business centre and tourist attraction and has effectively combined a successful commercial centre within a pleasant working, shopping and entertainment environment. It boasts spectacular art deco architecture with beautifully designed facades and buildings and is conveniently situated just 35 minutes from O.R. Tambo International Airport (ORTIA).

It provides an abundance of entertainment to its residents and visitors at a variety of superb shopping malls, pavement cafes, world class restaurants, markets, luxurious hotels, cinemas, art galleries as well as night clubs. The Zone@Rosebank has become one of the more prestigious shopping areas of Johannesburg. It is a large shopping mall and boasts many high-end stores and a large movie theatre. Whether it's enjoying a cup of coffee under an acacia tree, a visit to one of the country's finest art galleries, watching an art house movie, shopping at top designer boutiques or taking a leisurely stroll around the neighborhood, Rosebank has something to offer everyone.

South Africa Facts

Full name:	Republic of South Africa
Area:	1.22 million sq km or 470,693 sq miles (the size of Germany, France and Italy together)
Coastline:	3,000 Kms long
Biggest cities:	Johannesburg (largest), Cape Town, Durban
Provinces:	Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Free State, North-West, Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Kwa-Zulu Natal
Capitals:	Pretoria (executive capital); Cape Town (legislative capital); Bloemfontein (judicial capital)
Population:	48.8 million (UN, 2008)
Major languages:	11 official languages including English, Afrikaans, Sesotho, Setswana, Xhosa and Zulu
Most common religions:	Christianity, Islam, indigenous beliefs
President:	Jacob Zuma (2009)
Form of state:	Federal – central government and nine provincial governments
Legal system:	Based on Roman Dutch Law and 1996 constitution
Export:	Gold/minerals/diamonds/metals and metal products/foods
Import:	Machinery/transport equipment/manufactured goods/chemicals/oil
Main trading partners:	Germany/USA/UK/Japan
Economy:	SA has more cars, cell phones, auto banks and industrial facilities than all of the rest of Africa
Main economic sectors:	Mining, manufacturing, financial services and tourism
GNI per capita:	US \$5,760 (World Bank, 2007)
Highest point:	Mont Aux Sources in the Drakensberg
Climate:	Summer rainfall area, except in Western Cape
Spring/Summer:	September to April
Autumn/Winter:	May to August

Best time to visit:	Sept/Oct and Apr/May
Currency:	1 Rand = 100 cents (1 Rand = £0.075) or (1 Rand = \$0.12) <i>A can of Coca-Cola, R4.79 (£0.36) or (\$0.59)</i> <i>A Small packet of crisps, R2.89 (£0.21) or (\$0.35)</i> <i>A Standard white loaf of bread, R5.99 (£0.45) or (\$0.74)</i> <i>A 200g Bar of Cadburys Fruit & Nut, R16.99 (£1.27) or (\$2.10)</i>
Time:	GMT + 2
International dialing code:	+27 all local numbers dialed, even from within Johannesburg, should be preceded by the area code (011).
Electricity:	220/240 volts at 50 cycles per second, round three-pin plugs are standard.
Internet domain:	.za
Etiquette:	Some restaurants and clubs are formal / Topless swimming not allowed
Fishing:	Most popular – 250 species of fish in Southern Africa
Golf:	300 registered courses
Drinking:	Tap water is safe to drink
Alcohol:	For over 18's and may not be consumed in public areas. The legal blood limit is 0.05mg per 100ml.

Useful Information

Driving

Vehicles drive on the left hand side of the road and the speed limit on highways is maximum 120 km per hour, usually 60 or 80 km per hour in the suburbs. Look out for the speed limit road signs. The Metro Police as well as speed cameras are plentiful. Hefty fines are imposed for not wearing a seatbelt and for talking on a mobile phone while your vehicle is switched on. Hands free car kits are available at all cellular retail stores.

Transport from the Airport

There are frequent bus services for air travelers between OR Tambo International and both Pretoria/Tshwane and Johannesburg. Taxis are available at all airports - only the official ACSA-approved operators should be used and visitors are advised to make prior transit arrangements with their host or hotel. Top hotels will meet guests at the airport if prior arrangements are made.

Airport Tax

There is no airport tax on departure and airport tax is not levied on internal flights.

Internal Travel by Air

South African Airways (SAA), Nationwide Airlines and Comair (www.comair.co.za) operate frequent regular services linking all the main centres of the country, including Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, East London, George, Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth. Several similar airlines operate to more remote areas and towns. Private charter planes are available at most centres.

Internal Travel by Rail

Main line routes are served by modern express trains with air-conditioned dining cars and lounge cars. Long distance trains have comfortable sleeping accommodation which may be reserved when bookings are made; seat reservations should be made well in advance.

Public Telephones

Public phones are coin or card operated. Green phones use cards in denominations of R10 to R200, which may be bought at hotels, post offices and supermarkets. Cell phones may be hired at airports.

Banks and Money

Most major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express) are accepted. They may also be used to draw cash from ATM's. Petrol may only be purchased either by cash or with a special petrol card. Personal effects are allowed in duty free. Visitors may bring goods worth R500.00 and thereafter duty is leveled at 20%. Only change money at Commercial banks and the bureau de change.

Tax

Value Added Tax (VAT), currently at 14% is levied on most goods and services.

Registration with your Embassy

It is important that you register with your Embassy, Consulate or High Commission. The requirements for registering vary, but will include the completion of a form, providing your passport details, address and contact telephone numbers.

Insurance

For the protection of you, your family and your property, it is advisable to take out relevant insurance: Comprehensive motor vehicle insurance, household insurance, all risks insurance (for your personal belongings that you have on your person), personal liability insurance (provides cover against legal liability for bodily injuries to third parties or their property).

Etiquette

The dress code in South Africa is generally casual but there are a few up market restaurants and theatres that require a collar and tie. In restaurants, it is customary to give a 10% tip to the waiter/waitress if the service was adequate and 20% if the service was exceptional. Most restaurants do not add the tip into the meal price.

Smoking

Smoking is only permitted in designated smoking areas.

Religion

The majority of the population - including more than half of all Africans, most whites, and most mixed-race people - follows the Christian faith. Africans typically belong to African Independent Churches that combine Christian and traditional African beliefs in their worship, the largest of which is the Zion Christian Church. English-speaking whites generally belong to Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Methodist and other congregations, whereas Afrikaans speakers belong primarily to the Dutch Reformed Church. As many as 20% of Africans adhere solely to indigenous belief systems. Most Indians in South Africa are Hindus, although around 20% are Muslim and 10% Christian. Some mixed-race people are also Muslim. The Jewish community in South Africa is small but has had a significant impact on the development of the country.

Clothing

Lightweight suits are recommended work wear during the summer months (September to March); medium weight suits as worn in Northern Europe will normally be required during the winter though even then, it may be warm enough for lightweight clothing, depending on location. A lightweight raincoat is desirable, with an overcoat for winter mornings and evenings. A black dinner jacket and black tie or evening dress are useful for occasional formal functions. Few city restaurants insist upon a tie being worn and at resorts the evening wear is 'smart casual' (i.e. no jeans, shorts or T-shirts). Most offices have 'smart casual' dress policy (i.e. no jeans, shorts or T-shirts) and many companies have a smart casual dress day on Friday.

Public Holidays

2010	1 January	New Year's Day
	21 March	Human Rights Day
	22 March	Public holiday
	2 April	Good Friday (Friday before Easter Sunday)
	5 April	Family Day (Monday after Easter Sunday)
	27 April	Freedom Day
	1 May	Workers Day
	16 June	Youth Day
	9 August	National Women's Day
	24 September	Heritage Day
	16 December	Day of Reconciliation
	25 December	Christmas Day
	26 December	Day of Goodwill
	27 December	Public holiday

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	25 December	Christmas Day
	26 December	Day of Goodwill

Personal Safety, Health & Hygiene

Personal Safety

South Africa's crime rate is often exaggerated, however just as with any major city, sensible precautions should be taken:

- Try to stay on the main roads and keep to well lit areas.
- Do not display a lot of jewellery or cameras in the street or in your car.
- Make sure valuable items such as a bag, laptop, wallet, or cell phone are not visible in your vehicle.
- Keep your passport and other important documents in a safe place and make sure you have certified copies.
- Join the Automobile Association of South Africa and call them if you have a flat tyre, breakdown or accident, especially at night.
- Make sure you always have petrol in your vehicle.
- It is not advisable to purchase goods from the hawkers at the intersections.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers.
- Don't leave luggage unattended.
- Keep emergency numbers handy.

Medical Facilities and Treatment

Visitors to game parks are advised to take malaria tablets from pharmacies. Medical and hospital charges must be paid for immediately. Travel insurance is recommended. Emergency medical services are widely available and airborne medical rescue teams service large cities such as Johannesburg. You must keep your medical aid card with you at all times and a medical aid disc displayed on your car so that in the event of an accident, you or your family members will be taken to private medical facilities.

Medical treatment is of a high standard in private hospitals and these facilities are among the best in the world. Many people use private medical facilities in preference to state facilities, by way of private medical schemes.

Doctors/physicians are listed under 'Medical Practitioners' in telephone directories. Telephone numbers for calling an ambulance are listed under 'Emergency Services' in the front of the telephone directories.

Pharmacies stock a wide range of medication. South African drugs are among the most expensive in the world and those taking regular medication should bring adequate supplies with them.

Health Precautions

No special health precautions are necessary, but anyone with a history of a heart condition should avoid over-exertion in the high altitude towns. Care should be taken to avoid over-exposure to the sun which can be very strong in summer. In rural areas all drinking water should be either boiled or sterilised.

Malaria exists throughout the year in the low altitude areas of the Mpumalanga Province (including the Kruger National Park), Limpopo and north-eastern Kwazulu/Natal as far south as Tugela river. Rabies is present in South Africa. HIV/AIDS is widespread. Hepatitis B is also prevalent.

There is a risk of schistosomiasis/bilharzia, therefore avoid paddling in fresh water, except for well maintained swimming pools. You may also choose to obtain protection against typhoid, tetanus, polio, cholera and hepatitis A, depending on the part of South Africa being visited.

Children should have received the usual protection against childhood diseases and BCG vaccinations, protecting against tuberculosis, is recommended.

Hospital and Clinics in Johannesburg

- Johannesburg General Hospital (www.johannesburghospital.org.za).
- Morningside Medi-Clinic (www.mediclinic.co.za).
- Netcare Milpark Hospital (www.netcare.co.za).
- Netcare Sunninghill Hospital (www.netcare.co.za).
- Sandton Medi-Clinic (www.mediclinic.co.za).

Natural Environment

South Africa's natural environment is second to none, and offers unparalleled sights. From mountains, to deserts, to dramatic coastlines, South Africa has them all. It is home to an amazing array of land animals and sea life. It boasts among these; the 'Big 5' (Lion, leopard, Elephant, Rhino, Buffalo) and the 'Marine Big 5' (Whale, Shark, Dolphin, Marlin, Tuna), as well as these natural record breakers:

- World's **largest** land mammal (African elephant)
- **Smallest** (shrew – size of human a finger tip)
- **Tallest** (giraffe)
- **Fastest** (cheetah)
- **Heaviest** reptile (leatherback turtle)
- **Largest** antelope (eland)
- **Largest** bird (ostrich)
- **Heaviest** flying bird (kori bustard)
- **900** bird species – 10% of the world's variety and 1% of its land area
- **232,200** different plants

There are 21 national parks and major game reserves, the most famous being the Kruger Park (www.krugerpark.co.za), near Johannesburg, with a world-renowned diversity of wildlife and fauna, and good accommodation and viewing facilities. The Drakensberg Mountains (www.drakensberg.kzn.org.za) resorts are also popular and are 4-5 hours drive from Johannesburg, largely falling in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. In addition, there are numerous private game reserves throughout the country.



The kori bustard, weighing up to 17kg (37lb) and standing up to 1.5m (nearly 5ft) tall. They are omnivorous and their diet includes grasshoppers and beetles, scorpions, snails, small reptiles, seeds, berries, and bulbs.

Geography & Climate

Geography

The Republic of South Africa covers an area of 1.22 million km². The Drakensberg range of mountains runs from Swaziland (on the North-East border) to Lesotho where its highest peak - Thabana Ntlenyana (3,482 m) - sits. Away from the mountains, the land descends in a series of steps made up of plateaux and steep escarpments. Towards the coast the plateaux are narrow so the rivers are fast flowing and non-navigable. There is a very narrow, sea-level coastal strip along the whole of the Republic's 3,000km coastline. The coastal strip becomes a coastal plain 65 km wide only in the far north-east of the country at Makatini Flats.

To the north and west of the Drakensberg, the plateaux are wide and form the characteristic veld land of the Republic. The high veld (1225-1825 m) is rolling, treeless grassland broken by small, flat topped hills (called koppies). The middle veld (925-1225m) and the low veld (330-925m) are generally scrubland broken by low ridges of hills (called randjies).

The Orange River flows westwards through the centre of the country, across the high veld from the Drakensberg to the Atlantic Ocean. There are many smaller rivers that flow down through the coastal escarpment from the high veld into the Indian and Atlantic Oceans.

Johannesburg is located in the high veld, at an elevation of 1,753 meters (5,751 ft). The former central business district of the city is located on the south side of the prominent ridge called the Witwatersrand (Afrikaans: White Water's Ridge) and the terrain falls to the north and south. By and large the Witwatersrand marks the watershed between the Limpopo and Vaal rivers. The north and west of the city has undulating hills while the eastern parts are flatter.

Climate

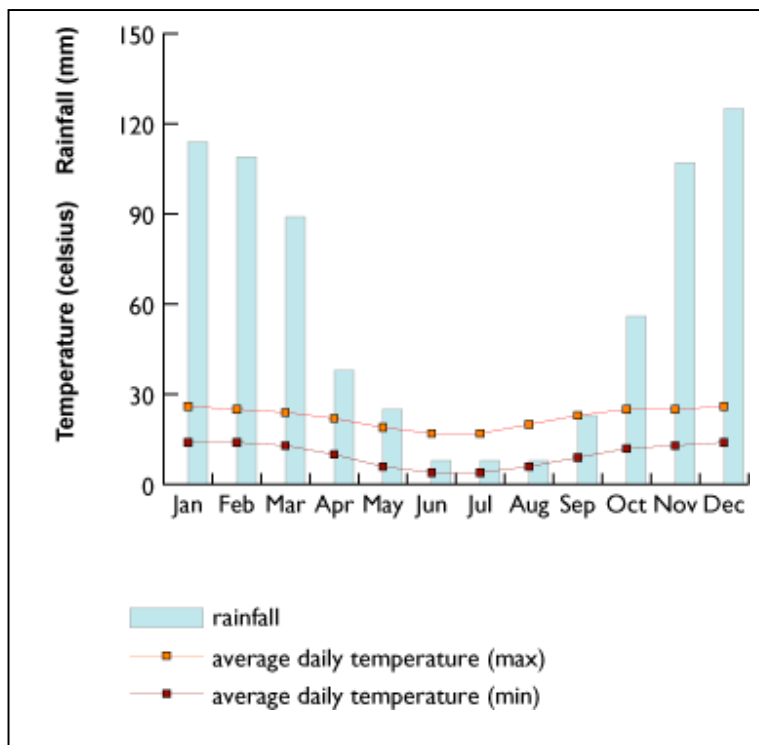
The extreme south of the Cape Province has a Mediterranean climate. Rain falls mainly in winter, between May and September, when it is frequently cloudy and overcast, although there are also warm and sunny days; nights can be quite cold. Snow falls on the mountain ranges of the Cape and Natal. The summer months, from December to March, are generally warm and dry with strong – south easterly winds; when the wind drops, the humidity and temperature rise; nights are generally cool.

The area enjoys a dry, sunny climate, with the exception of occasional late afternoon downpours in the summer months of October to April. Temperatures are usually fairly mild due to the city's high altitude. Winter is the sunniest time of the year, with cool days and cold nights. The temperature occasionally drops to below freezing at night, causing frost. Snow is a rare occurrence. Infrequent showers occur through the course of the winter months.

Temperature & Rainfall

	Spring		Summer		Autumn		Winter	
	C	F	C	F	C	F	C	F
Cape Town	20	68	25	77	22	72	17	63
Durban	23	73	27	80	25	77	22	72
Johannesburg	23	73	25	77	21	70	17	63
Port Elizabeth	20	68	24	75	22	72	19	66
Bloemfontein	25	77	29	84	22	72	17	63

Average temperatures across South Africa



Annual average weather conditions for Johannesburg

Art, Culture & Entertainment

Johannesburg is not traditionally a tourist destination, but a likely port of entry for many. It features a bustling street life, office blocks, and a vibrant mix of people. It is said to have the best nightlife in South Africa, attracting top musical performers. The Newtown Cultural precinct is the hub of the city's cultural life, with the well-known Market Theatre Complex (www.markettheatre.co.za) leading the way.

Art Galleries

The City has a number of well-established, world-class art galleries and boasts several corporate collections too. There's no limit to what is on display: prints, sculptures, African craft, tapestries, beadwork, ceramics, wirework and experimental art.



Johannesburg Art Gallery

- *Johannesburg Art Gallery*
The collection of the city's major public gallery spans international artists such as Rodin, Picasso and Henry Moore, to South Africans such as Sekoto, Batisse and Pierneef. It also houses an extensive collection of the work of contemporary local artists.
- *Everard Read Gallery (Rosebank, Sandton)*
Southern Africa's most famous commercial art gallery was established in 1912. Over the years the gallery has grown in size and sophistication with the emergence of Johannesburg as Africa's business and financial capital. The building, an outstanding example of post-modern architecture, has become a much admired landmark.
- *David Brown Fine Art*
The premises of an old Rosebank house have now been transformed into a contemporary space with a large sculpture garden. The gallery exhibits contemporary paintings, sculptures, photography and ceramics in a variety of styles.
- *Cherie de Villiers Fine Art Gallery*
This gallery was established in 1993 and offers an extensive range of paintings and bronze sculptures by leading South African artists.

Museums

The Museum Africa has some 850,000 items in its storerooms, and focuses on South African cultural history. It houses the Bensusan Museum of Photography and the Museum of South African Rock Art, as well as a geological collection. Temporary exhibition spaces host multidisciplinary festivals, contemporary art and student shows.

Orchestra

Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra provides world class music from a group of committed, resilient musicians who established the group in 2000. They perform music that incorporates the greatest accomplishments of classical and South African music genres.

Theatre

Homegrown South African theatre is alive and well, as evidenced by the myriad productions staged at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown in July each year. Many of these travel the country afterwards, often ending up at Johannesburg's famous Market Theatre at the Newtown Cultural Precinct, or at the Civic Theatre in Braamfontein. There are dozens of theatres in the Johannesburg area; here are details of just a few:

- *Civic Theatre* - Includes The Nelson Mandela Theatre, The People's Theatre, The Tesson Theatre Loveday St, Braamfontein
- *Globe Theatre at Gold Reef City*
- *Market Theatre* - Includes Laager Theatre, The Barney Simon Theatre, Main Theatre
- *The National Children's Theatre* - (formerly the Johannesburg Youth Theatre)

Cinemas

Johannesburg boasts a large number of excellent big-screen, big-sound cinemas spread throughout the city and suburbs. The major complexes, often situated inside shopping malls and featuring 10 or more screens, are run by two major distribution companies, Ster-Kinekor and Nu Metro. Ster-Kinekor also hosts the only art cinema in town - the Cinema Nouveau in Rosebank Mall, Cradock Avenue, Rosebank.

Casinos

There are two large casinos inside Johannesburg, two more on the outskirts, and others less than two hours drive away.

- *Gold Reef City*
Located in the city's south-west, table games include blackjack, roulette and six different kinds of poker. An exclusive section for high rollers is called the Club Egoli Salon Privé. The casino also features three smoking casinos, Saratoga, Barney's and Market Gardens and one of the city's top theatres.

- *Montecasino*

Located in North West Johannesburg, there are a wide variety tables, ensuring that every visitor finds an enjoyable game. Table games include Poker, Blackjack and Baccarat. On the premises, the Monte Casino Bird Garden is a top family attraction.

Heritage

The Cradle of Humankind is a World Heritage Site first named by UNESCO in 1999, about 50 kilometers northwest of Johannesburg. This site currently occupies 183 square miles and contains a complex of limestone caves, including the Sterkfontein Caves, where the 2.3-million year-old fossil *Australopithecus africanus* (nicknamed "Mrs. Ples") was found in 1947 by Dr Robert Broom and John Robinson, as well as the Wonder Cave. The find helped corroborate the 1924 discovery of the juvenile *Australopithecus africanus* skull, "Taung Child", by Raymond Dart, at Taung in the North West Province of South Africa, where excavations still continue. The Maropeng Visitor Centre is an exciting, world-class exhibition, focusing on the development of humans and our ancestors over the past few million years.



The interior of the Kromdraai caves, full of hominid fossils, situated near the Sterkfontein caves in the "Cradle of Humankind"

Days Out & Recreation

Melose Wild Bird Sanctuary

A symphony of birdsong and vibrant colours. There are more than 120 wild bird species in the reedbeds and indigenous trees around the shimmering lake.

Roof-Top Market at Rosebank Mall

The Rooftop Market is regarded by many as South Africa's best flea market, and is well patronised by locals and tourists. More than 500 stalls offer quality clothing, ceramics, art and craft objects, antiques and collectibles.

Voortrekker Monument

The Voortrekker Monument is situated in Pretoria, South Africa. The massive granite structure, built to honour the Voortrekkers (Pioneers) who left the Cape Colony in their thousands between 1835 and 1854, was designed by the architect Gerard Moerdijk who had the ideal to design a "monument that would stand a thousand years to describe the history and the meaning of the Great Trek to its descendants". The total construction cost came to £359,600, of which the state contributed the most. It can be seen from almost any location in the city. Construction started on 13 July 1937 on Monument Hill. Eleven years later the Monument was inaugurated on 16 December 1949. In the same year a large amphitheatre was also erected to the North East of the Monument, which seats approximately 20,000 people. Notwithstanding the massive size of the Monument, two other elements make it a site worth visiting: the Historical Frieze and the Cenotaph Hall.



Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria

The Lion Park

The Lion Park is situated in Gauteng Province near Lanseria Airport and Fourways within easy reach of Johannesburg and Pretoria. The park offers terrific up close views and other exciting interactions with a large variety of predators and large herbivores indigenous to Africa. The Lion Park is home to over 80 lions including the rare white lions and many other carnivores such as cheetah, wild dog, brown and spotted hyena and black backed jackal and a wide variety of antelope which roam freely in the antelope area.

Rhino and Lion Reserve

The reserve was founded in 1985, with the aim of preserving the scenic area for private leisure. From a modest beginning of two White Rhinos, 'Ouvrous' and 'Bulle', imported from a zoo in Germany, and some antelope species, the reserve now boasts 600 head of game representing 25 different species.

Johannesburg Zoo

Opened in 1904, it is a sprawling 54 hectares in central Parktown, with plenty of trees, water features and beautiful walks. The stars of the show are, of course, the animals and the collection is impressive. There are lions, tigers, elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees, sable antelope, bat-eared foxes and polar bears among the 2,070 animals, representing 365 different species. While its core business is the accommodation, enrichment, husbandry and medical care of wild animals, the Johannesburg Zoo also offers a variety of educational and entertainment programmes.

Sporting Attractions

Sport is often referred to as South Africa's 'national religion' and is very much a part of people's lives. There are excellent facilities, particularly for football/soccer, rugby, golf, tennis, cricket, bowls, fishing and swimming. The 3,000 km long coastline offers excellent destinations for water-sports like surfing, scuba-diving and sailing. Inland, outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, mountain-climbing and white water rafting are very popular.

South Africa will host the 2010 FIFA Football World Cup (www.sa2010.gov.za) in various cities across the country. There are also a number of excellent golf courses around the country. The South African Golf Association (www.saga.co.za) provides links to the provincial golf unions, which in turn provide the contact information for local golf courses and golf clubs. South Africa's cricket team is up there with the best, and Cricket South Africa (www.cricket.co.za) provides detailed information on both domestic and international teams.

The South Africa national rugby union team - the Springboks - are the current holders of the Rugby World Cup and are currently ranked number 2 in the IRB World Rankings. In addition to playing in the World Cup they play in a number of other international competitions such as the Tri-Nations and a number of tests. The Springboks do not use a national stadium as their home, but play out of a number of venues throughout South Africa. The 60,000 seater Coca Cola Park (then Ellis Park Stadium) in Johannesburg was the main venue for the 1995 World Cup, where the Springboks defeated the All Blacks in the final. (www.sarugby.net)

Swimmers, due to the warm climate, may look forward to outdoor swimming for approximately eight months of the year, often in residential pools. Swimming in South Africa (www.swimsa.co.za) can provide information for more competitive swimmers, while keen surfers can obtain up to date reports and other surfing-related information from Wavescape (www.wavescape.co.za). For more outdoor sports, including running, cycling, triathlon, swimming, mountain biking and kayaking, SA-Active.com (www.sa-active.com) provides useful information on upcoming events and challenges.

Wanderers Cricket Stadium, Johannesburg

Nestled in the leafy suburb of Illovo, Wanderers cricket ground in Johannesburg is regarded as the premier cricketing stadium in South Africa and is the largest test venue in the country.

Wanderers Golf Course, Illovo, Johannesburg, Gauteng

The course is placed right next door to The Wanderers test cricket ground, and the sports lovers in Johannesburg are occasionally torn between watching Ernie Els burn up the golf course, or walking across to the cricket stadium to see cricketers in full cry. Complete Golfer magazine rated Wanderers' 19th hole, which enjoys a magnificent view of the course, as one of the best in South Africa.

Coca-Cola Park, (previously known as the Ellis Park Stadium)

The stadium hosts both football and rugby, and is also used as a venue for other large events; it is the home grounds of the Golden Lions, Lions, Orlando Pirates Football Club and is also the premier concert event in South Africa.

Huge investment in Johannesburg centre is also underway in preparation for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. The opening and closing matches for the tournament will be played in the city at the Coca-Cola Park Stadium.

Gauteng Hiking Trails

The Gauteng Province has several spectacular botanical gardens, bird sanctuaries and nature reserves and an authentic treasure trove of archaeological and geological sites. A ninety-minute drive north-west of Johannesburg takes you to the beautiful Magaliesberg Mountains. This area offers fantastic hiking trails with views of superb rock formations, sparkling waterfalls, winding streams and masses of exceptional indigenous vegetation. The Johannesburg Hiking Club organises hikes and fosters a sense of responsibility towards the environment. The club offers youthful, midweek and Sunday hikes, backpacks, base camp weekends, slide shows, club evenings and social events.

Johannesburg also offers numerous fantastic trails that have been tailored for disabled and/or handicapped persons. In the heart of the province, Hennops hiking trail allows hikers to experience one of the few unspoilt nature areas near the Hartbeespoort Dam. This trail consists of two day trails setting out from two base camps namely The Krokodilberg trail and The Zebra trail.



Soccer City Stadium, 2010 Football World Cup venue, Johannesburg.

Restaurants & Bars

South Africans enjoy eating out, and the diverse range of restaurants on offer, particularly in the cities, is clear evidence of the people's love of good food. Rich agricultural land and the surrounding ocean provide all the meat, seafood, fruit and vegetables needed to ensure that not only regional specialities, but also all kinds of international cuisines are well represented and of excellent standard. Prices are generally lower than in Europe.

The country's cuisine reflects the nation's cultural diversity. Two influences predominate: indigenous cuisine (such as Khoisan, Xhosa and Sotho) and settlers' or neighbouring cuisines (with Afrikaaner, British, Cape Malay and Portuguese elements). Local dishes often use wild (or farmed) game such as springbok, impala and kudu. Good Congolese, French, Greek, Moroccan, Italian, German, Chinese, Japanese, Indian and West African food can be readily found.

South Africans eat a great quantity of cooked red meat, and biltong (seasoned dry meat) is also very popular. Some other local specialities include: bobotie, a curried mince dish, of which the waterbolmmetjiebredie variety, made with a local water plant, is particularly good; bredies, meat, tomato and vegetable casseroles; potjiekos, a casserole cooked for hours in an iron pot, usually outside; and sosaties, a type of kebab. Funky Munky's Traditional South African Recipes (www.funkymunky.co.za/recipes.html), developed by a seasoned Johannesburg resident, gives a good idea of what kind of local culinary delights to expect upon arrival.

Local wines (such as Paarl) and beers (Castle, Amstel) are of very good quality. In recent years South Africa's reputation as a maker of top quality wines has become known well beyond its borders.

In many towns, the best restaurants are in the principal hotels, and are open to non-residents. In some hotels there are two restaurants, the casual visitor may take the table d'hôte meal with the residents in the ordinary dining room, or eat à la carte in a separate restaurant or grill-room where meals are of a higher standard and more expensive. There are also sandwich bars and plenty of international and local fast-food outlets, such as Nando's (www.nandos.co.za) and the South African burger chain Steers (www.steers.co.za).

Restaurants and bars/cocktail lounges all have waiter service and the bill is paid at the end. Some restaurants may close on Sunday or Mondays.

Eating and Drinking around Rosebank

Rosebank and the surrounding area enjoys a huge range of dining experiences covering every type of cuisine. Listed below are just a few:

- *Zafferano Restaurant and Lounge*
Zafferano Restaurant and Lounge is the ultimate spot to enjoy a relaxed evening out with exquisite food and a wide selection of international and local wines. A cosmopolitan setting with a modern, ethnic surrounding, Zafferano offers stylish, contemporary and innovative Italian cuisine. A popular rendezvous for the social and business set in Johannesburg.
- *The Afrodisiac*
The Afrodisiac and Voodoo Lounge offers an authentic African dining and entertainment experience. The African cuisine grill house is a five star, fine dining experience with entertainment to match. The Voodoo Lounge provides a cocktail bar and live music.

- *The Pinotage Restaurant & Wine Cellar*
The award-winning Pinotage a la carte restaurant and wine cellar offers a unique blend of African Fusion and Cosmopolitan flavors prepared by gourmet chefs.
- *al Fiume Italian Country Restaurant*
A popular 200-seater restaurant on the banks of the Hennops River, with a wide deck built over the river shaded by thatch and indigenous trees. The ambience created by this setting is special. Food is classic Italian with the emphasis on freshness, quality and presentation.
- *Piccolo Mondo*
True to its name, the Piccolo Mondo really is "a world in one". You can circumnavigate the globe in a journey of tastes that transports you from Mozambique to the Mediterranean. Piccolo Mondo's seafood menu includes Mozambican prawns, lobsters, langoustines, mussels, oysters, crab, clams, calamari and Norwegian salmon. Order from the Mediterranean style à la carte menu or opt for a three-course set menu. All meals are complemented with the pick of South Africa's most commended wines.
- *The Radium Beer Hall*
The only place in town where you can listen to a classic 18-piece jazz band. Also on offer is the amazing calamari and Portuguese specialties and an historic bar counter. The Radium was established in 1929 and is reputed to be the oldest surviving bar in Johannesburg.
- *Moloko Bar Lounge (Rosebank, Sandton)*
Moloko is situated in the one of the most fashionable areas in Johannesburg and is recognized as one of the most up-market venues in the city. This bar and lounge has the most exquisite surroundings, with a diverse crowd of all cultures and styles. Described as an African jet-set venue, expect to find yourself in the company of models, fabulous personalities and media.
- *Katzy's at the Grillhouse*
The who's who hang out at this trendy venue in Rosebank, though it's open to everyone. Situated at The Firs Mall, Katzy's specialises in whiskeys, cognacs and cigars. It is based on two piano bars in the US – Jilly's in Chicago, once owned by Frank Sinatra, and Don't Tell Mama's piano bar on the Upper West Side in New York. Katzy's plays soft music, classical music and blues. Live bands perform every day except Mondays.

Shopping in Johannesburg

Johannesburg is a shopper's paradise. Towards the South of the city is **Southgate Mall**, **The Glen** and the **Dobsonville Shopping Centre**. The Southgate Mall is one of South Africa's top 10 malls in terms of size and has long served the nearby city of Soweto. Southgate has the largest complement of furniture stores in the region. Dobsonville Shopping Centre is the first major shopping complex in Soweto and is seen as a symbol of economic development in the area.

Towards the East is the **Eastgate Mall**. This mall is ideally situated within easy distance of the OR Tambo International Airport and Johannesburg city centre. It houses over 250 stores.

Travelling North you will find the **Cresta**, **Crossing**, **Fourways Mall**, **Hyde Park Corner**, **Killarney Mall**, **Melrose Arch**, **Montecasino**, **Nelson Mandela Square**, **Northgate**, **Sandton City**, **The Mall of Rosebank** and Village Walk. Cresta Mall is one of Johannesburg's largest shopping complexes, boasting a diversity of stores ranging from supermarkets and clothing to cozy coffee shops and movie theatres. The Hyde Park Corner was completed in November 1969, and was one of the first fully enclosed decentralized shopping centers developed in South Africa. It boasts 130 top-quality specialty stores, many of which are international brands. Killarney Mall is one of Johannesburg's most established shopping centers and was the first to be opened in the city in 1961. For those who enjoy late night shopping, visit the Montecasino. There is plenty of entertainment, including cinemas, a theatre as well as a casino.

Nelson Mandela Square is also truly spectacular. From designer boutiques and world-class cuisine to local curios and coffee shops. You can take in a show at the Liberty Theatre on the Square, view works of art in one of the galleries or simply enjoy a meal at one of many renowned restaurants. Sandton City is beautifully decorated, well designed and is one of Johannesburg's most up-market malls.

To the West are **Clearwater Mall**, and **Westgate**. Both offer a diverse shopping and entertainment experience. In the city centre are the **Oriental Plaza** and **Carlton Centre**. The Oriental Plaza is known for its exotic variety of fabrics sold at discount prices. Carlton Centre is in the city's towering 50-storey skyscraper and is one of the most popular landmarks in Johannesburg.



Nelson Mandela Square Shopping Mall, Johannesburg

Hotels & Accommodation

Hotels in Johannesburg

***** Hyatt Regency Johannesburg, 191 Oxford Road, Rosebank, Johannesburg, 2132 (www.hyatt.com). Located in the suburb of Rosebank; to the north of the city centre.

**** The Grace in Rosebank, 54 Bath Avenue, Rosebank, Johannesburg, 2196 (www.thegrace.co.za). Located in the suburb of Rosebank; to the north of the city centre.

**** Westcliff, 67 Jan Smuts Avenue, Westcliff, Johannesburg, 2193 (www.westcliff.co.za). Located in the suburban area of historic Westcliff; to the north of the city centre.

**** Mercure Hotel Midrand, Old Pretoria Main Road, Midrand, Johannesburg, 1685 (www.mercure.com). Located in the business district; near to the airport.

*** Palazzo Montecasino, Montecasino Boulevard, Fourways, Johannesburg (www.southern.sun.com). Located 20 minutes from the business and financial district in Sandton.

*** Protea Hotel Midrand, 14th Street Noordwyk Ext 20, Midrand, Gauteng, 1685 (www.proteahotels.com). Located between Johannesburg and Pretoria.

*** Protea Hotel Parktonian All Suite, 120 De Korte Street, Johannesburg, 2017 (www.proteahotels.com). Located near the city centre.

*** Rosebank Hotel, Corner of Tyrwhitt Avenue and Sturdee Avenue, Johannesburg, 2196 (www.rosebankhotel.co.za). Located near the city centre.

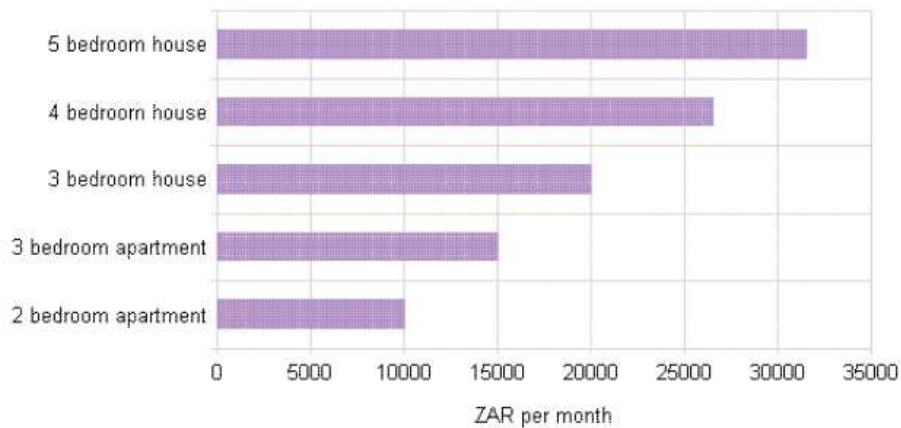
*** Mercure Hotel Randburg, Corner of Republic Road and Randburg Waterfront, Johannesburg, 2125 (www.mercure.com). Located in the suburbs; opposite the new Brightwater Commons shopping centre.

Accommodation in Johannesburg

Located approximately 8 km north of the city centre, Rosebank, Melrose, Illovo, Atholl and Inanda are well-established and highly sought after residential neighbourhoods. They offer a good selection of shops, schools, restaurant and recreational facilities. Rosebank in particular offers a large shopping centre complete with cinema and restaurants, as well as a modern private clinic.

Some houses here are free-standing; many will have their own garage. Upper-bracket properties usually have their own swimming pool. Apartments and condominiums are also available. Melrose offers older properties. Availability is good, and occasionally tight in Rosebank.


Average accommodation rental costs in Johannesburg, South Africa




Furniture and Household Goods

The majority of houses are let unfurnished, although a greater number of furnished apartments are available, particularly in the Sandton area. Expect to budget for at least an extra 20% for a furnished property. Most properties have fitted carpets, and the kitchen will include fully built-in cupboards equipped with stove and oven. The overwhelming majority of bedrooms include built-in wardrobes; however, the inclusion of lighting fixtures and curtains is at the landlord's discretion. Furnished properties will include all furniture and appliances. Properties with a fireplace are preferable as temperatures can be low in winter and central heating is rare. Consequently, it is recommended to purchase portable heaters and electric blankets. It is possible to buy good quality furniture locally, but imported goods can be expensive.


APARTMENTS - low or high-rise apartment blocks

	<p>Some older apartments still have 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, but mostly 1 and 2 bedrooms. The newer ones were built with executives in mind - modern, sophisticated, central and "lock-up-and-go". Open plan kitchen, dining room and lounge, and balcony. Most of the apartments are guarded by 24 hour security and have community facilities such as swimming pool, tennis court, bar, restaurant and gym. The attraction of these apartments is their professional tenants, proximity to the office, the abundance of shops, restaurants, clubs and a variation of other entertainment, within a vibrant atmosphere. Many of these have a fully furnished and equipped option.</p>
Rental:	From R5 000.00 to R15 000.00.
Electricity & Water:	R200.00 to R600.00 per month.
Maid:	R100.00 per day.
Satellite Television:	R420.00 per month.


CLUSTER HOMES

	<p>These are houses within a security complex, ranging from 6 to around 20 houses within an enclosed and secure area. The houses are all the same and are usually smaller than the free standing houses. Access is controlled through an intercom system / remote control or security guards. Some of these have communal swimming pools and tennis courts. Others have their own small private gardens and private swimming pools, but these are very small and are called "splash pools".</p> <p>Usually 3 bedrooms, sometimes with a study included, open plan kitchen, lounge and dining area, usually 2 bathrooms, smallish garden and small swimming pool. Some of them have garages and some have servants' quarters.</p>
Rental:	From R10 000.00 to R25 000.00 per month.
Electricity & Water:	From R500.00 to R1 500.00 per month.
Maid:	R 110.00 per day.
Satellite Television:	R420.00 per month.
Pool Service:	From R200.00 to R500.00 per month.
Gardener:	R 110 per day, once a week.


GATED COMMUNITIES (ESTATES)

	<p>These are large developments, in which "free standing" homes are built. These are characterised by excellent security, golf courses, communal swimming pools, sports facilities, beautiful gardens and lakes - all within a fully secured and fenced-off suburb. The houses themselves vary in style and size, from Tuscan to Colonial. Access is controlled through an intercom system / access cards and a security guard service. Usually 3/4 bedrooms with 2 or more bathrooms. Some have separate kitchens, dining rooms and lounges, while others have the kitchen, dining room and lounge all in one open plan room. Many variations are available. Most of these have an average size garden and small private swimming pool, double garage and servants quarters.</p>
Rental:	From R14 000.00 to R45 000.00 per month.
Levy:	(which covers the security and maintenance of communal areas): From R1 000.00 to R2 000.00 (depending on the estate).
Electricity & Water:	From R800.00 to R2 000.00 (depending on usage).
Maid:	R 110.00 per day.
Satellite Television:	R420.00 per month.
Pool Service:	From R300.00 to R600.00 per month.
Gardener:	R 110 per day, once a week.

TOWNHOUSES

	<p>These are similar to the clusters, but are smaller, more attached to their neighbours and more units per enclosure, up to 160 in some complexes. Typically 2 bedrooms. The gardens are small and there are usually no private swimming pools. They are suitable for individuals who don't need/want a large amount of space. 1-3 bedrooms, with 1 or 2 bathrooms, open plan kitchen, dining room and lounge, some have gardens while others on the first or second floor have balconies. The average size of a 1 bedroom is around 80 square meters in total. They can have 1-2 allocated garages or just carports.</p>
Rental:	From R3 500.00 to R15 000.00 per month.
Electricity & Water:	From R200.00 to R1 000.00.
Maid:	R 100.00 per day.
Satellite Television:	R420.00 per month.
Pool Service:	From R300.00 to R600.00 per month.

FREE STANDING HOMES

	<p>Old, as well as modern homes characterized by high walls. Much of this type of housing is now being redeveloped to make space for security complexes. The free standing houses generally include full security systems. Usually 4 bedrooms with 2 or more bathrooms, separate kitchen, lounge, family room, dining room, study, outside patio, large garden, swimming pool and tennis court. Usually a double sometimes triple garage and servants quarters.</p>
Rental:	From R18 000.00 to R45 000.00 per month.
Electricity & Water:	From R1 500.00 to R6 000.00 per month (depending on how often the pool is filled, lawns are watered, use of heating, etc).
Maid:	R 110.00 per day.
Satellite Television:	R420.00 per month.
Pool Service:	From R500.00 to R2 000.00 per month.
Gardener:	R110 per day. Usually employed 2 days per week.

Please note that this is a generalisation only and it is possible to find variations of all the housing options in terms of size and cost.

Education

For education in government schools, children only enter Grade One in the year they turn seven. The school year begins in January. State schools have four terms with six weeks' summer holiday in December/January, four weeks around April and three weeks in September/October. Private schools follow the three-term system but many are now falling into line with the state schools. Most schools are open from 07.30 to 14.00 and often have after school activities, some of which are compulsory at a certain age. Many schools require their pupils to wear a uniform.

School attendance is compulsory for all children until the end of the year in which they turn 16. Education in state schools is free but each school is allowed to charge a small fee to aid its development. Johannesburg offers many good local and international schools. The American International School and the British International College are located in Bryanston, easily accessible for the Sandton area, Rosebank, and the surrounding areas and the Northern gated communities. The French school is located in the Sandton area and the German school in Westcliff. Local schools of international repute are Roedean Girls School, in Houghton, and St Stithians, a co-ed school in Sandton.

Schools in Johannesburg

Ashton International College
47 Beryl Street, Farrarmere, Benoni, Johannesburg 1465
(www.ashtoncollege.co.za)
Ages: 5 to 19
Languages: English
Curriculum: Local/national, UK

Auckland Park Preparatory School
59 Twickenham Road, Auckland Park, Johannesburg 2092
(www.apps.co.za)
Ages: 5 to 13
Languages: English
Curriculum: Local/national
Fees (day pupils) up to: 12071 payable per term

British International College
130 Bryanston Drive, Bryanston, Johannesburg 2021
(www.bicollege.co.za)
Ages: 13 to 20
Languages: English
Curriculum: UK
Fees (day pupils) up to: 43816 payable per annum

Crawford School-Sandton
11 Benmore Road, Benmore Gardens, Johannesburg
(www.crawfordschools.co.za)
Ages: 3 to 18
Languages: English
Curriculum: Local/national

Deutsche Internationale Schule
11 Sans Souci Road, Parktown, Johannesburg 2006
(www.dsj.co.za)
Ages: 3 to 19
Languages: German
Curriculum: Local/national, German
Fees (day pupils) up to: 25668 payable per annum

Lycee Francais Jules Verne
PO Box 556, Morningside, Johannesburg 2057
(www.lycee.alafrench.com)
Ages: 6 to 18
Languages: French
Curriculum: French

St Mary's School for Girls
Corner Athol & Burn Streets, Waverley, Gauteng, Johannesburg
(www.stmarysschool.co.za)
Ages: 4 to 19
Languages: English
Curriculum: Local/national
Boarding: Yes
Fees (day pupils) up to: 62550 payable per annum

The American International School of Johannesburg
Private Bag x 4, Bryanston, Johannesburg 2021
(www.aisj-jhb.com)
Ages: 4 to 20
Languages: English
Curriculum: International, US
Fees (day pupils) up to: 100895 per annum

Higher Education

Johannesburg has a well-developed higher education system of both private and public universities. Public universities include University of the Witwatersrand (one of the leading universities in South Africa) and the University of Johannesburg which was formed on 1 January 2005 when three separate universities and campuses - Rand Afrikaans University, Technikon Witwatersrand, and the Johannesburg campuses of Vista University - were merged. The new university offers education primarily in English and Afrikaans, although courses may be taken in any of South Africa's official languages.

Private universities include Monash University, which has one of its eight campuses in Johannesburg (six of the other campuses are in Australia, while the eighth is in Malaysia), and Midrand Graduate Institute which is located in Midrand. Johannesburg also boasts one of the finest film schools in the world; winning amongst others the Academy Award's Oscar for Best Foreign Student Film in 2006. The South African Film School, or AFDA for short, is situated in Auckland Park.

Appendix 1 – Common South African Phrases

English	Afrikaans	Zulu
Yes	Ja	Yebo
No	Nee	Cha
Hello	Hallo	Sawubona
Goodbye	Tot siens	Sala kahle
Please	Asseblief	Jabulisa
Thank you	Dankie	Ngiyabonga
Pleased to meet you	Aangename kennis	Ngiyababula ukukuwazi
Excuse me; I'm sorry	Verskoon my/Jammer; Ek is jammer	Uxolo
My name is.....	My naam is....	Igama lam nhu.....
I don't understand	Ek verstaan nie	Angizwa

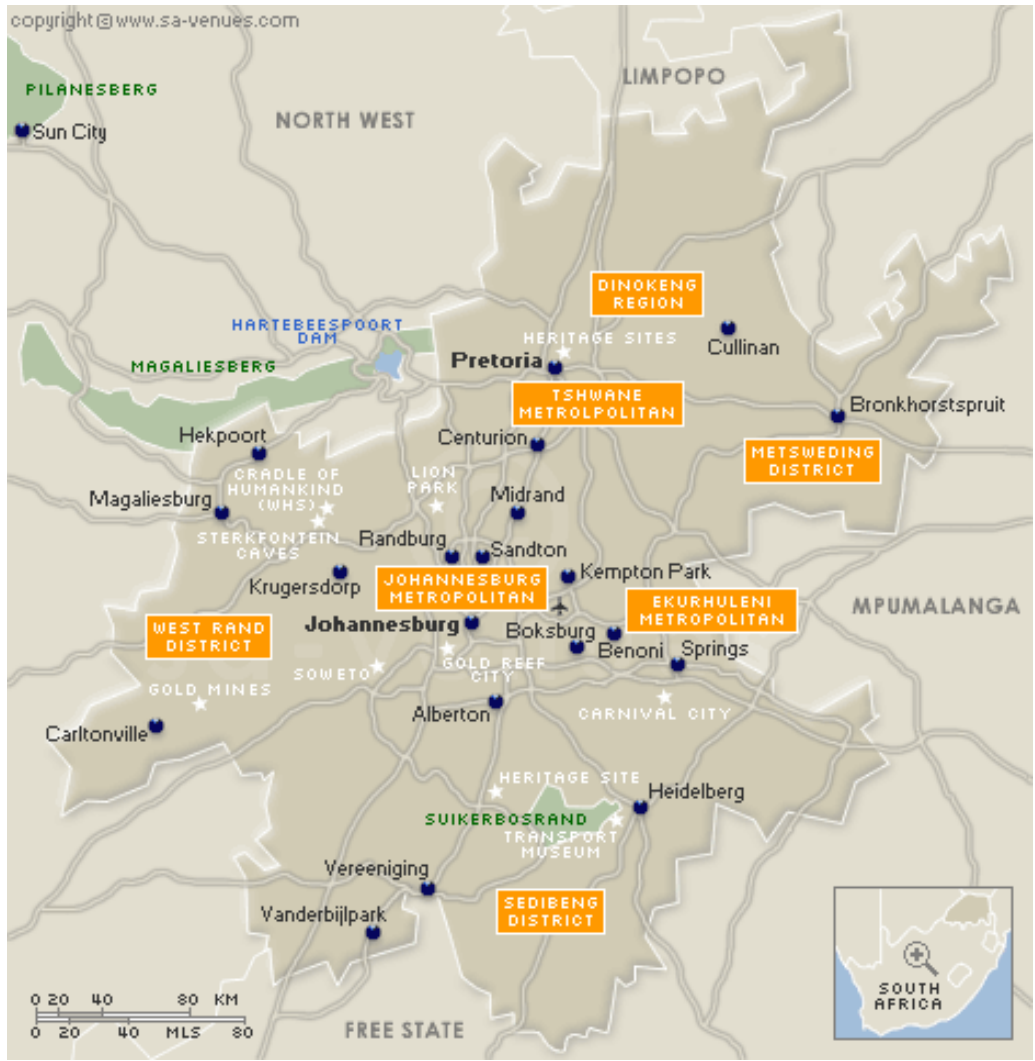
South Africa has 11 official languages: English, Afrikaans (similar to Dutch), Zulu, Xhosa, Ndebele, Southern Sotho, Northern Sotho, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda and Swati. Most people in the urban areas understand and speak English. However, it's always appreciated when some local phrases are used but if you are not sure which language the person speaks then stick to English.

Slang and Similar

Even English-speaking South Africans have words that are only used in South Africa: A traffic light is known locally as a "robot" and a barbecue is called by the Afrikaans word "braai". If something is really nice the Afrikaans word "lekker" is used, usually pronounced as "lekka". A common greeting is "Howzit?" and if something is going to be done fairly soon, it'll be done "now now" while "just now" is a little later on.

Another word often used in South Africa is "shame" which can mean anything from "oh cute" - usually said "ag shame", to "you poor thing" to "I feel sorry for you". An elevator is called a "lift" and "sms" are used instead of a "text"

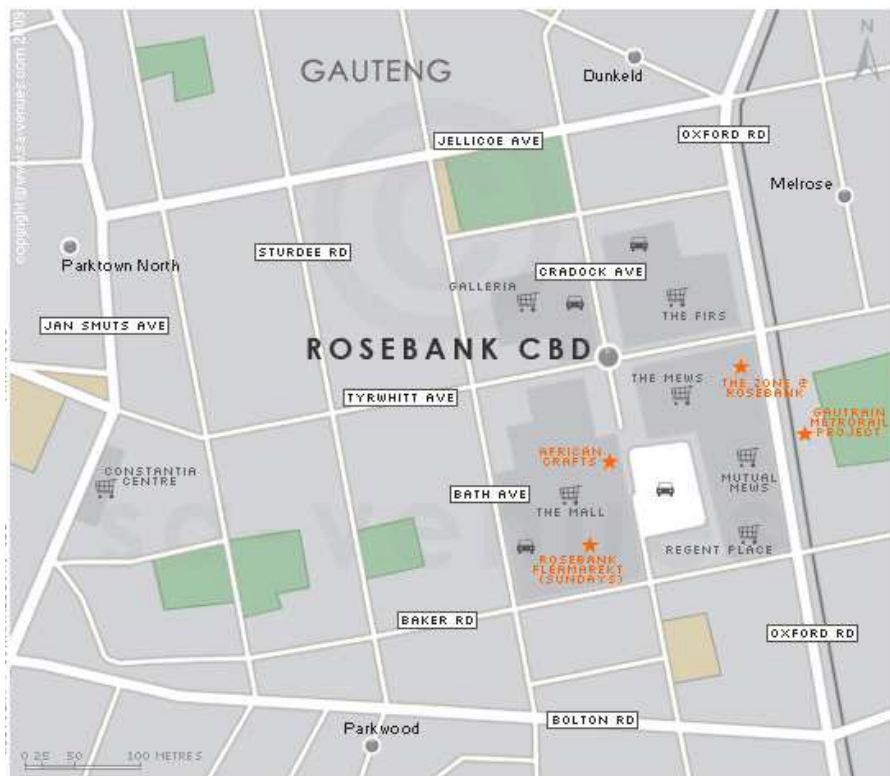
A much used ethnic word is "eish", used as an exclamation, such as "oh no...." or "goodness me" or something to that effect; "Eish but the traffic is bad today!" A flash light is known as a torch, your best friend is referred to as your brah, or broe, (pronounced brew). A good meal is known as a "lekka chow."



Johannesburg Map



Johannesburg suburbs and freeways. Rosebank is located in the green Central district.



Rosebank Map

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