

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION SOUTH AFRICA

## PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for **at least six (6) months** after your journey ends, and should have a minimum of two (2) consecutive blank visa pages for entry and exit stamps.

Note: you will need 2 blank visa pages, each time you enter or re-enter South Africa during the course of your journey. Therefore, keep this in mind if your specific itinerary includes travel to countries outside of South Africa followed by a return to South Africa.

Holders of U.S. and Canadian passports are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into South Africa for stays of up to 90 days.

Our partner VisaCentral offers easy, efficient U.S. passport and visa processing. Visit them online at [visacentral.com/abercrombiekent](http://visacentral.com/abercrombiekent) or call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001. Service fees apply.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

### Of Special Note: Adults Entering and/or Exiting South Africa with Minor Children

South Africa has instituted requirements for adults traveling with children under the age of 18.

Parents travelling with children will be requested to provide an official birth certificate that includes the details of the full name of both the child's father and the mother of all travelling children. This applies even when both parents are travelling with their children and it also applies to foreigners and South Africans alike. When children are travelling with guardians, these adults are required to produce affidavits from parents providing permission for the children to travel. All documents must be in English.

#### **Both parents travelling with child:**

- When both parents are travelling with a child, nothing additional is required provided the child and both parents share the same surname. If this is not the case, such parents must produce an official birth certificate that includes the details of both the child's father and mother.

#### **One parent travelling with child:**

- In the case of one parent travelling with a child, he or she must produce an official birth certificate that includes the details of both the child's father and the mother. In addition, the parent must produce one of the following:

- If the travelling parent has shared legal custody of the child: Consent in the form of an affidavit from the other parent registered as a parent on the birth certificate of the child authorizing him or her to enter into or depart from South Africa with the child he or she is travelling with.

- If the travelling parent has sole legal custody of the child: A court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights, or legal guardianship, in respect of the child, if he or she is the parent or legal guardian of the child; or where applicable, a death certificate of the other parent registered as a parent of the child on the birth certificate.

#### **Child travelling with a relative (for example grandparent) or with a person given the parents' approval to enter into or depart from South Africa with the child:**

- Where a person is travelling with a child who is not his or her biological child, he or she must produce a copy of the official birth certificate that includes the details of both the child's father and the mother.
- An affidavit from the parents or legal guardian of the child confirming that he or she has permission to travel with the child.
- Copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the child.
- The contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child.

## VACCINATIONS

A yellow fever vaccination is only required to enter South Africa if you are arriving from, or have transited through, a yellow fever-endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC and WHO each provide a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; you may be denied entry without it. If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country/countries you are visiting.

## CASH & CREDIT CARDS

Cash transactions should be made in South African Rand. Major credit cards are widely accepted at shops, hotels, safari lodges and restaurants. Access to ATM machines is widespread in large cities such as Johannesburg and Cape Town but limited in rural areas.

## OF SPECIAL NOTE: AGE RESTRICTIONS ON BUSH WALKS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Due to South African government regulations, persons under the age of 16 are not allowed to participate in bush walks (game viewing on foot). Persons over the age of 60 are required to produce a note from their physician stating that they are fit enough for such an activity.

# PACKING LIST & BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

## SOUTH AFRICA

### BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

On flights within Southern Africa, each passenger is limited to 1 piece of checked luggage and 1 carry-on bag with a combined total weight of no more than 44 pounds (20 kilograms). This includes the weight of purses and camera equipment in addition to your other luggage. Luggage restrictions are adhered to very strictly and passengers should pack their bags accordingly. Soft-sided luggage or duffels are required for luggage storage on safari vehicles and also on light aircraft used throughout Southern Africa. Dimensions of your checked bag should not exceed 23 inches (58 centimeters) long x 13 inches (33 centimeters) high x 10 inches (25 centimeters) wide. As a convenience, A&K provides each safari guest with a complimentary, custom-designed A&K Duffel. This bag is specifically crafted to meet airline standards\*. Your carry-on bag should be small enough to fit in your lap or under your seat.

\*Note: in addition to the size and weight restrictions noted above, O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa also imposes additional restrictions for checked baggage. The A&K Duffel meets these additional requirements as well. However, if you plan to check any bags other than the A&K Duffel during the course of your journey, please be aware of the following regulations:

- Only regular shaped bags will be allowed to be checked in. All bags must have at least one flat surface to be accepted. Round or irregular-shaped bags will not be allowed.
- Bags with long straps will not be allowed. Long straps need to be detached and stored in the luggage (the strap on the A&K Duffel easily detaches and can be stored inside).

Passengers whose bags do not conform to the above rules will be required to have their baggage wrapped with one flat side at an approved baggage wrapping station within the airport.

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to collect and manage your luggage for you.

### PACKING LIST

Choose comfortable and casual clothing in natural, "breathable" fabrics and versatile styles that can be layered as temperatures may vary considerably in the course of the day. For game viewing, wear neutral colors (though not camouflage, which is illegal in most national parks and reserves). Black, navy or other dark colors tend to attract insects. Smart casual attire is appropriate for evenings. Formal clothing is not necessary.

Note: If your itinerary includes a journey aboard the Rovos Rail train, the required dress code at dinner in the main dining car is a jacket and tie for gentlemen, and elegant for ladies, such as cocktail/evening dresses or suits.

#### Clothing

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Casual slacks                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking shorts  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses | <input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeve shirts or blouses   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable walking shoes with traction            | <input type="checkbox"/> If you are travelling during Africa's winter months of mid-May through early September, bring warm clothing —heavy sweater, hat, gloves, lined jacket —to protect against chilly early morning and evening temperatures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A pair of rubber beach sandals to use as slippers. |  |

Brimmed hat for sun protection

Personal garments

Sleepwear

Swimwear/cover-up

Sports bra for women for bumpy roads

Socks

#### Other Recommended Items

Sunglasses / Sun block

Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)

Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses

Charging cables for electronics

Insect repellent with high % of DEET to protect against mosquitos and tsetse flies\*

Simple first-aid kit

Smartphone

Global travel adapter

#### Optional Items

Small LED flashlight

Lightweight binoculars

Inflatable pillow or stadium cushion can make bumpy roads more comfortable

Foldable walking stick

Small daypack or fanny pack

Low-suds detergent for washing small items of personal laundry

\*Note: many properties provide insect repellent in rooms/tents. However you may wish to bring your own preferred brand.

Laundry Service is available at most hotels, lodges and camps. Because some laundries in Africa do not accept any underclothing, be prepared to wash your own smalls. Laundry techniques may not be suitable for delicate and/or synthetic fabrics. Check costs and return times before using these services.

## TIPPING GUIDELINES SOUTH AFRICA

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars) depending on the type of journey.

	<b>All Small Group Journeys and Pre/Post Tour Group Extensions</b>	<b>Tailor Made and Signature Journeys</b>
Resident Tour Director or Group Extension Guide	\$15 per person, per day	Not applicable
Local Safari Guides or Game Rangers	Included	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Safari Driver-Guides or Game Trackers	Included	\$15 per person, per day (full day)
Driver-Guides for City Sightseeing	Included	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	Included	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	Included	\$2 per bag
Bush Lodges and Permanent Tented Camps	Included	\$10 per person, per day – Gratuities are accepted at each property and shared among the staff.
Staff aboard Trains or Cruise Vessels (if applicable)	Included	\$10-\$15 per person, per day – Gratuities are accepted on board and shared among the staff.
Housekeepers	Included	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included	Included
Restaurants or Room Service on Own	10-15% unless already added	10-15% unless already added

For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to a Small Group Journey, please follow the Tailor Made Journeys guidelines for these days only.