



# WELCOME

*Your ultimate African DMC partner with unmatched expertise in Southern Africa*

We are delighted that you have decided to take a self-drive tour through South Africa. To make your driving experience as pleasant as possible, we took some time to prepare some of the most important information for you below.

## **Travel Directions**

If booked, we are also providing detailed descriptions of every stage of your route for you. Furthermore, we are also providing approximate distances and driving times to simplify your daily planning (please note: this is an estimate in driving times and does not include delays for photo stops, toilet stops, lunch stops or driving slower due to bad road conditions). Since changes on road signs aren't that rare in South Africa and some of them are not recorded on the latest map material, there can be occasional deviations from our route descriptions. If time allows, it would be very kind of you to give us some brief information about such discrepancies, in order to update our database accordingly.

*Please take a few minutes to carefully read the following information regarding driving in South Africa.*

### **Please note the following general information on road traffic:**

- Please note that there is left-hand traffic in South Africa
- "Right before left" applies in left-hand traffic as well
- As everywhere else in the world, it is compulsory to wear a seat belt, and no phone usage while driving is allowed.
- The blood-alcohol limit in South Africa is 0.00% (Zero Tolerance). Any trace of alcohol in a driver's system will result in immediate penalties, including fines and possible suspension of their license. This regulation applies to all categories of drivers.

## **Safety instructions for driving a car in South Africa:**

### **Traffic Lights**

Traffic lights in South Africa are often placed double – one where one has to stop and the other one on the opposite side of the intersection. Watch out for pedestrians! They will cross the road at any opportunity, even when the traffic lights are red. If you are driving late at night, you should keep in mind, that South Africans then consider red lights more as a priority sign. So sometimes people run red lights, especially in rural areas. It is not legal, but will be tolerated as a general rule.

### **Four-Way-Stops**

Most four-way-stops have stop signs on all of the roads leading onto it. Sometimes there is only a white line drawn across the road which also acts as a stop sign. All cars need to stop at the intersection. Whoever arrives first, drives across the stop first. This might sound chaotic, but it works smoothly in

South Africa. It is important to keep eye contact with the other drivers and at times a show of hands might be necessary.

### **Traffic Circle or Roundabout**

There are a few rules for traffic circles. One enters the traffic circle in a clockwise direction and the cars already in the roundabout have right of way. Most of the roundabouts have more than one lane. The right lane depends on which exit one intends to use. Sometimes there are signs indicating the exit and it is advisable to get into the appropriate lane as soon as possible. Whoever wants to exit from the inner lane, must check that there are no cars in the other lanes. As most of the drivers do not know which lane has right of way, one should drive carefully and keep a good distance in any roundabout. It is important to indicate well ahead of time before exiting. There are also larger roundabouts with traffic lights.

### **Speed limits**

The following speed limits are applied, unless stated otherwise:

- Urban areas: 50 km/h
- School zones: 30 km/h
- Outside of urban areas: 100 km/h
- Freeways: 120 km/h

We advise you to follow these speed limits as there are many speed cameras. Be especially careful on untarred roads (e.g. in game reserves, national parks, and rural areas) to avoid car accidents and damage.

### **Controls**

Speed- and traffic controls take place everywhere, sometimes even in remote regions. There are permanent speed cameras and mobile units. Even if some may say that the police are corruptible, we strongly advise you to not attempt a bribe at a traffic check. You should also keep in mind, that the police are not allowed to cash up on-site, they always have to write out a ticket.

### **Overtaking**


Slow cars tend to drive on the hard shoulder of a road to let faster cars pass by. A short activation of the hazard warning lights functions as a sign to say thank you. The tailgating of a car behind indicates that they want to overtake.

### **Road conditions**

The roads in the Western Cape and Gauteng as well as all main connecting roads (freeways and secondary roads) are in general good conditions. Freeways with multiple lanes are mostly found in urban areas. Overland routes normally consist of one or two lanes. Most of the roads in National Parks are in good conditions and can be driven with an ordinary car. Pay attention to potholes and road damages in sparsely populated rural areas. It is advisable to use an SUV for mountain passes and dirt roads.

### **Toll roads**

Some parts of freeways (N) and country roads (R) are chargeable. Those roads are mostly specifically indicated in road maps. The toll fees differ according to the region and distance. In Johannesburg the



etoll system was introduced. By now many rental cars got integrated toll sensors, therefore the toll fees get deducted automatically from the provided credit card. Sometimes alternative routes (marked with an A) exist, but those are generally longer and in worse condition.

### **Petrol Stations**

Petrol stations are easy to find in cities, along main roads and even in smaller towns. Many of those are open for 24 hours. Only if you are traveling through remote areas for a longer time period, it is advisable to bring along a spare Jerry can. At the petrol station, the vehicle key is given to the petrol attendant, who will fill up the tank for the requested amount. A distinction is made between leaded and unleaded petrol and diesel. Refuelling by yourself is not possible. The attendant will additionally offer to check water and oil and to clean the windscreens. It is custom to give a few Rands as a tip. Cash or card payments are possible, please always keep an eye on your card. It is advisable to always carry cash, in case there are no card facilities at the petrol station in rural areas.

### **Parking**

On busy roads you normally need to pay for parking. A distinction is made between official and unofficial park attendants. The official ones usually wear orange uniforms and carry a small device around to measure the time of parking. You need to pay them right away, after parking your car. Prices vary regarding region and are usually written out on signs. The unofficial "Car Guards" look after a car voluntarily to get a payment of ZAR 5-7 in return.

### **The yellow and red line**


In South Africa a yellow line along the side of the road indicates limited stopping and a red line means stopping is absolutely forbidden. There are no signs. It is very important to follow those rules, as the fines for illegal parking are very high. It can happen that the wheels get clamped, or the car is towed away. This will result in an expensive fee to have the car released.

### **Accidents**

Of course there is always a chance of having an accident. The following procedure is very similar to the one in Germany. First you should stop and park the car at the roadside. Hit-and-run will be punished with a fine and/or prison sentence. Help wounded people as good as possible and call the emergency doctor if necessary. In addition, the police should be notified of any damage. If nobody is injured and there is no damage to the vehicles, both parties can agree to continue driving. Exchange contact details to be on the safe side: name, address, telephone number and registration number. In addition, take notes on the cause of the accident. This includes the traffic situation and weather conditions. Photos can also help if the cause of the accident needs to be reconstructed later. Independent witnesses can be very helpful, so it's best to get their information as well. As soon as the police has arrived, pay close attention to what you're saying. Even supposedly harmless sentences could later be interpreted as an admission of guilt. Avoid statements like "I didn't see the car" or "I will pay for the damage".

### **Peak hours**

During rush hours, traffic is usually very slow, therefore a lot of patience is required. It is important to allow other drivers to merge into another lane. If possible, avoid rush hour, which takes place on



weekdays from 06:30h-08:00h and from 16:30h-18:00h (Fridays already at noon). Please keep this in mind for your daily planning, driving to the airport, etc.

### **Minibus Taxis**

The white minibus taxis count as a form of public transport and the drivers are known for their fast and sometimes reckless driving style. It is important to keep a generous distance, as minibus taxis can stop anytime and anywhere without a warning.

### **Speed bumps**

Speed bumps are used on side roads and in residential areas to ensure that moderate speed is maintained. One should not exceed 30 km/h when driving over these. Unfortunately, these are sometimes not sufficiently marked (usually with white stripes), so caution is advised.

### **Feigned breakdowns and accidents**

In deserted areas, trick thieves sometimes try their luck by faking breakdowns or accidents. If you see an accident at the roadside, continue driving slowly and quietly and alert the police.

### **Fake policemen**

Unfortunately, in rare cases, fraudsters impersonate police officers. If you doubt the authenticity of police officers, you have the right to go to the next police station and have them checked there. Alternatively, you can drive to the next bustling petrol station.

### **Hitchhikers**

There are hitchhikers on the roadside every now and then and some of them offer ZAR 10 or ZAR 20 for a ride. For your safety, we advise you to not take any hitchhikers.

### **Sunsets (approximate range):**

#### **Cape Town and Garden Route**

October to March	ca. 18:45h-20:00h
April to September	ca. 17:45h-18:45h

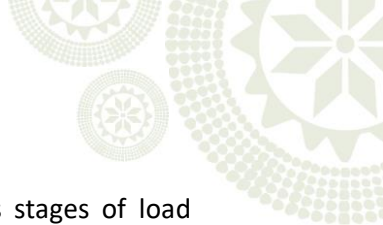
#### **Johannesburg / Mpumalanga / Swaziland / Kwa-Zulu Natal**

October to March	ca. 18:00h-19:00h
April to September	ca. 17:00h-18:00h

Please keep in mind, that the sun sets relatively early in South Africa, even in midsummer. The low position of the sun in the late afternoon (from approx. 17:00h) can impair your vision for oncoming traffic. Please try to avoid long journeys after dark.

### **Loadshedding**

While your travel, you might experience temporary electricity cuts we call “load shedding”. Eskom, South Africa’s primary electricity supplier, faces the challenge of a constrained power system that will affect South Africa until substantial new power capacity is available. In the meantime, to meet demand, older power stations and infrastructure are being used to full capacity. Load shedding, or load reduction, is done countrywide as a controlled option to respond to unplanned events to protect



the electricity power system from a total blackout. This is done through various stages of load shedding. You may or may not experience load shedding while you travel. Most accommodation providers and tourism establishments have equipped themselves with diesel-powered generators and inverter batteries to ensure minimal inconvenience for their guests and visitors. This applies for most shopping centres and restaurants too. The times for load shedding in specific areas can be found on the App “eskomsepush” which can be downloaded via the App Store. Your accommodation establishments will also communicate the loadshedding times in their area. They will inform you each day when to expect load shedding and if you should expect any disruptions or not. Remember, power cut times differ between regions and even within a city. To avoid any disappointment, we do recommend charging phones, cameras and laptops whenever you have a chance to do so. Please be vigilant on the roads, as some traffic lights do not work during loadshedding and a stop and go system is implemented. South Africans have taken the power cuts in their stride and in their characteristic way are approaching it with humour. Load shedding for travellers may be inconvenient at times, but you could minimise this by being prepared and staying positive and patient. With a bit of luck, you will only be minimally affected, or not at all.

### **Trips to Kruger National Park**

Since September 2018, a valid identity card is needed for every entry and exit to the Kruger National Park from persons over 18 years. A valid identity card, passport or driving licence can be presented for identification purposes. The document will be scanned on entry/exit to/from the park.

### **Trips to Addo Elephant Park**

South Africa offers breathtaking landscapes and captivating travel experiences. It is important to us to ensure your safety and well-being during your stay. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that the route along R335, passing through the Addo region, is currently not as secure as we would desire for our customers. But no need to worry, we have an alternative that not only guarantees your safety but also provides scenic highlights. We recommend taking the route via Patterson, offering a secure and pleasant journey while immersing you in the fascinating landscape at the same time.

### **Trips to Mozambique**

It may happen that Mozambican policemen stop tourists for alleged traffic offences and demand the payment of "fines". In principle, only the official traffic police (dark blue trousers, white shirt, blue or white cap) are entitled to impose fines for traffic offences. The police (grey uniforms) may only stop cars for general identity checks. It is recommended to insist on the inclusion of a proper protocol. Fines should only be paid at the police station with an official receipt. It is recommended that you familiarize yourself with Mozambican traffic regulations in advance. Relevant information can be obtained for example from rental car companies.

### **GENERAL SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS**

Even almost 20 years after the end of apartheid, the country remains divided. The extremely unequal distribution of income and possession separates the country on the Cape. The enormous wealth gap, violence and crime are unfortunately still among the main problems of South Africa. We therefore ask you to consider the following aspects:

- Keep the windows and doors closed while driving through the city and at red traffic lights. We recommend you using the central locking system as soon as you enter your car. Many rental cars do this automatically.
- Do not leave coins, handbags, cameras, GPS devices etc. visible in the car, not even on the back seat. It is recommended to store everything in the trunk during the day and to empty your car during the night.
- Do not stop for suspicious car breakdowns, it might be a trap. If you see an accident at the roadside, drive slowly and quietly past it and alert the police.
- Avoid lookout points or rest areas if there are no other tourists in sight.
- If you don't want to drive, book your taxi with reliable, well-known companies. The hotel will usually be happy to help you with your requests. Nowadays the mobile phone application Uber is very common, you can easily and quickly install and use the app for transport uses.

### **IMPORTANT CONTACTS FOR YOUR JOURNEY**

#### **AGENCY ON SITE:**

Monday - Friday 08:00h-17:00h

Saturday/Sunday, weekdays after 17:00h

#### **TERRA NOVA TOURS**

+27 21 4489965

+27 84 9937826

#### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

Police Emergency (SAPS) from landline: 10111

General Emergency number (mobile phone): 112

General Emergency number from landline: 107

Ambulance: 10177

National tourism number: +83 123 6789

### **WE WISH YOU A PLEASANT JOURNEY!**