



**MANY VOICES, ONE MOVEMENT**

## Basic Visitor Information

### Johannesburg Emergency Numbers

Service	Phone number
Carmen Michielin CARE Security Unit	+14046433243 / +27825767977
Police	10111 (Free landline call)
Hospital Emergency Connect	+27 11 375 5911
Emergency number	10177/1022
Central Fire Station	10177/1022
Clinic	N/A
Ambulance	10177/1022
National Operator	1025
National Directory	1023
International Operator	0900

### Travel to Johannesburg

#### Visa Information

South African Visas should be obtained from the nearest South African Embassy in your country and it takes about 3 to 5 working days to be processed. Some travellers may obtain Visas at the point of entry, depending on the passport you hold.

#### Arrival at Airport

Johannesburg is served by the OR Tambo International Airport formerly known as Johannesburg International Airport. On arrival, you will go through immigration, then pick up your luggage and proceed through customs. Luggage carts are available free of charge. There is a luggage claims kiosk close to the carousels; if your luggage gets lost. Foreign exchange is available after exiting customs.

#### Banking

Banking hours are Monday–Friday 9h00 am to 3h30 pm, Saturday 9h00 am to 11h00 am.

Thomas Cook, American Express, Diners Club and VISA travellers' cheques are recognized around the city. ATM's are available at many locations.

## **Health**

Vaccinations are not necessary for entry to Johannesburg (or any other city in South Africa). Medical costs are reasonable by world standards. Hospitals may require upfront payment. Tap water in Johannesburg and throughout South Africa is very drinkable and 100% purified.

## **Security in South Africa**

### **Safety and Security Brief Summary**

South Africa's crime is exceptionally high, both in respect of violent and petty crimes, specifically in urban areas. It is preferred that you travel in groups of two or more persons and maintain vigilance at all times. Do not assist anybody who experiences any problem or difficulty, as criminals often pretend to be in distress to attract victims; rather alert the police or emergency services.

Large-scale civil unrest and labor strikes are not common in South Africa, but can occur. Most protests are organized and peaceful, but violence has occurred. Avoid all areas in which any reported protests are occurring or where civil unrest is reported.

Police in South Africa face many challenges of understaffing, lack of resources and training and are often thought of as ineffective in combating crime. Response time to emergency situations is slow and not all officers speak English. The South African Police Services Uniform is blue from head to toe, but all officers carry a picture identity, which you can ask to see at any time if you are to interact with an officer.

### **Personal Security**

Visitors are advised not to walk around with valuables or important items such as passports and airline tickets. It is best to carry minimum amounts of cash.

If you are a victim of crime, you should contact the police and your embassy.

### **Sexual assault is a hazard throughout South Africa**

There is a very high rate of rape and sexual assault in South Africa. It is recommended that women travel in groups or pair with a buddy when travelling around.

### **Precautions to prevent theft from hotels in South Africa**

Keep hotel doors and windows locked at all times. Do not leave valuables unattended in hotel rooms; lock large personal items in luggage and keep cash, valuables and personal documents in the hotel or room safe.

### **Theft from vehicles occurs frequently in South Africa**

Petty theft from vehicles is a common problem. Do not leave any items, valuable or not, in sight in your vehicle. Even when you are in the vehicle, it is best to keep your valuables hidden from view, preferably in the trunk. In the cities "car guards" may offer to watch your car while it is parked. They are normally given ZAR 1-2 for their help and pay them upon return.

## **Take security precautions when using public transportation in Johannesburg**

Travel by public transportation in South Africa, except for sedan taxis, is generally **not secure**. Sedan taxis are a more secure means of transport. Use taxis arranged by hotels as they usually offer greater security than do ones hailed on the street.

## **Other source of information**

Visit your embassy websites for updated travel information:

<http://www.southafrica.info/travel/advice/>

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1008.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1008.html)

[http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/South\\_Africa](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/South_Africa)

<http://www.britishhighcommission.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1024659591907>

[www.vuyaafrica.co.za](http://www.vuyaafrica.co.za)