



SANCTUARY
RETREATS



Your holiday guide to

SOUTH AFRICA



CONTENTS

SOUTH AFRICA HOLIDAY GUIDE



- SOUTH AFRICA 04
- GETTING INTO SOUTH AFRICA 06
- STAYING HEALTHY 06
- TIME ZONE 06
- TIPPING 07
- TALK THE TALK 07
- MONEY 07
- WEATHER 08
- WHAT TO PACK 08
- PHOTOGRAPHY 09
- BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS 09
- LOCAL FOOD AND DRINK 09



Your holiday guide to
SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

The Madikwe Game Reserve is a 75,000 hectare malaria free destination which is home to the 'Big Five', as well as the rare African wild dog, cheetah, giraffe, hyena and over 360 bird species.

One of South Africa's premier game-viewing destinations, the malaria-free Madikwe Game Reserve is home to the "Big 5" (lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino and leopard), the rare African wild dog (called "Makanyane" in the Tswana language) as well as cheetah, giraffe, hyena, and a host of other game species. The birdlife is also spectacular, with over 360 bird species being found in the reserve. This beautiful and diverse African wilderness encompasses 75,000 hectares of widely varying terrain. From rocky peaks, across open grasslands, to verdant valleys, each area, with its own distinctive inhabitants, provides visitors with an unforgettable safari experience. Ideally situated in South Africa's North West Province, access to the reserve is simple and direct, a mere 3.5 hour drive or 45 minute flight from Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Established in 1991, Madikwe Game Reserve was developed as a three-way partnership between the South African government, local communities and

the private sector. The primary objective of Madikwe Game Reserve is to stimulate ecologically sustainable economic activity in the vicinity, thereby benefiting the local communities through employment and business opportunities. A direct result of this objective is the conservation of biodiversity in the area.

In order to establish Madikwe as a premier wildlife destination, an ambitious wildlife reintroduction programme, called Operation Phoenix, was initiated, which remains the largest game translocation and re-introduction programme to have taken place in the world to date.

Over a period of seven years, ten thousand animals were relocated into Madikwe, with twenty seven species, all historically occurring in the area, being released into the reserve. These species include lion, elephant, buffalo, black and white rhino, wild dog, giraffe, zebra and a host of antelope species.





GETTING INTO SOUTH AFRICA

Visa Information

For most passports, a visa is required. Please check with local authorities for details. Two blank passport pages are required when travelling to Southern Africa. Check the number of days given on arrival at the immigration desk as there are steep fines for overstaying the number of days given. Departure tax is dependent upon which airline you are travelling with.

Visas Not Required

Foreigners from most Commonwealth and European Union countries, as well as the United States, are not required to obtain visas for entering Botswana, except in cases where the Minister of Labour and Home Affairs has directed otherwise.

Visas Required

Please visit www.botswanaembassy.org for a full list of nationalities requiring visas for entry into Botswana. Please note this information serves as a guide only. Travellers should check for visa requirements pertaining to their citizenship, as entry requirements can vary. Visas are to be obtained in advance and cannot be issued at port of entry.



TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

From 1 June 2015 parents travelling with children would now be requested to provide an unabridged birth certificate (including the details of the child's father as well as the mother) of all travelling children.

Child and both parents

- An unabridged birth certificate
- A valid passport for the child

Child and one parent

Parent must produce

- An unabridged birth certificate
- A valid passport for the child
- A court order / death certificate / affidavit confirming the absent parent has given permission for the child to travel

Child and guardian

Guardian must produce

- An unabridged birth certificate
- A valid passport for the child
- A court order / death certificate / affidavit confirming the parents have given permission for the child to travel
- Copies of parents / guardian ID documents
- Contact details of parents/guardian

Child unaccompanied

- An unabridged birth certificate
- A valid passport
- A court order / death certificate / affidavit from both parents or legal guardian confirming permission to travel
- A letter from the person who will receive the child in South Africa including their full contact details and a certified copy of their ID / passport produced.
- Contact details of parents / guardian



STAYING HEALTHY

South Africa requires all travellers journeying from yellow fever risk countries to show proof of yellow fever vaccination by means of a valid yellow fever certificate. The Madikwe Game Reserve is not a malaria area. Other areas in South Africa are malaria areas, should you be traveling to other parts of the country, please consult your personal physician for more information.

TIME ZONE

South Africa standard time is GMT + 2 hours



TIPPING

You are travelling on an independent itinerary and the cost of your program does not include gratuities. Tipping is a very personal matter and should only be considered when our staff have gone above and beyond for you.

Whilst tipping is entirely at your discretion, we advise US\$ 30 per person, per day. 1/3 of gratuities is allocated to the guide, and the remainder of the balance is divided amongst the rest of the staff. Gratuities can be added to your account upon check out, given to the lodge manager for distribution, or given directly to the individual staff members.

MONEY

The monetary unit of South Africa is the Rand, divided into cents and abbreviated as R and c.

USD, GBP and Euro are accepted - however, change will be given in rand.

Visa, Diners, Mastercard, Debit cards and American Express cards are all accepted for any purchases at the lodge. Please note that American Express will undergo a 5% surcharge.

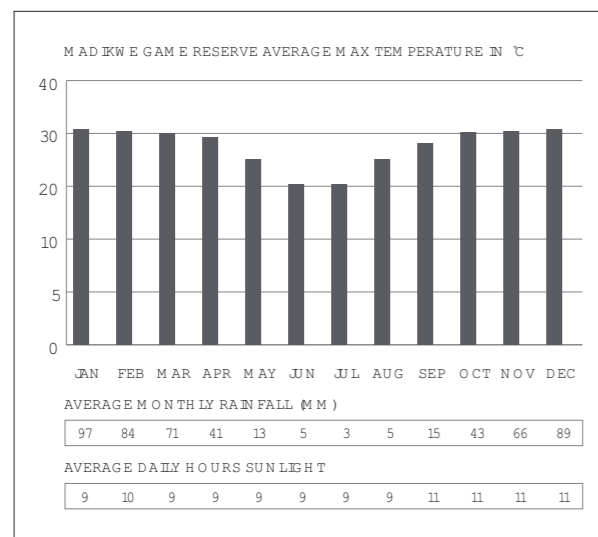


WEATHER

South Africa is a big country just south of the tropic of Capricorn, but it is the topography and surrounding oceans that influence its climate, rather than the latitude. Although the climate varies from region to region, it is generally mild and sunny throughout the year.

Winter (May – August) in Madikwe Game Reserve is generally cool and dry with temperatures averaging between 3°C (38°F) to 23°C (73°F).

Summer (September – April) is characterised by hot and wet weather, with temperatures averaging between 25°C (77°F) to 40°C (104°F). The area is classed as a semi-arid region, with 500 mm (19.5 inches) of annual rainfall. This is usually as a result of short thunderstorms in the late afternoon or night time during the summer months.



WHAT TO PACK

Clothing on safari should be comfortable and colours should blend in with nature as much as possible. Greens, browns and khaki coloured clothing are advisable. Evening dress in the lodges and camps is 'smart casual,' there is no formal wear required. We advise guests to dress in a way they feel most comfortable.

From November to March light summer clothes are best, although do bring a jumper for the evenings. From April to October warmer clothes are advised as the mornings and evenings can be cold. The days are typically warm and summery though.

The most practical items to pack for safari are:

- Fleece, sweater or warm jacket for morning and evening game drives
- Light cotton shirts and T-shirts; Blouses or shirts with long sleeves
- Comfortable walking shoes for walking safaris
- Swimwear (for lodges and camps with swimming pools)
- Shorts, trousers and chinos
- Sun hat and sun block
- Camera and Binoculars
- For winter (May – September) pack a warm jacket and a scarf and gloves

A complimentary laundry service is available at our lodge.



LOCAL FOOD & DRINK

South Africa has an excellent culinary reputation that includes its own award-winning wines that are produced in the Cape Province. There are gourmet restaurants in every major city, as well as those serving authentic Portuguese, Greek, German, Chinese and local ethnic delicacies.



BAGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

There is a restriction on luggage of a maximum of 20kg of soft luggage for flights from Johannesburg to Madikwe. Free excess bag storage is available if required.

TALK THE TALK

There are 11 official languages in South Africa: Afrikaans, English, Ndebele, Northern Sotho, Southern Sotho, Swazi, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa and Zulu.

Useful phrases in Tswana

<i>Hello</i>	<i>Dumela</i>
<i>How are you?</i>	<i>Lekae?</i>
<i>I am fine</i>	<i>Keteng</i>
<i>I am not fine</i>	<i>Gakasiama</i>
<i>Thank you</i>	<i>Kaleboga (I thank you...) / Real-aboga Plural – We thank you...)</i>
<i>Beautiful</i>	<i>Bontle</i>
<i>Goodbye</i>	<i>Salasentle</i>

PHOTOGRAPHY

The main rule when visiting South Africa is "take nothing but photographs and leave nothing but footprints". If you wish to take photos of the local people it is customary to ask for their permission before taking any photos. Please do not use flash photography for close-up animal shots.

