

## South Africa “The Rainbow Nation”

The  
**SAFARI INDEX**  
Africa



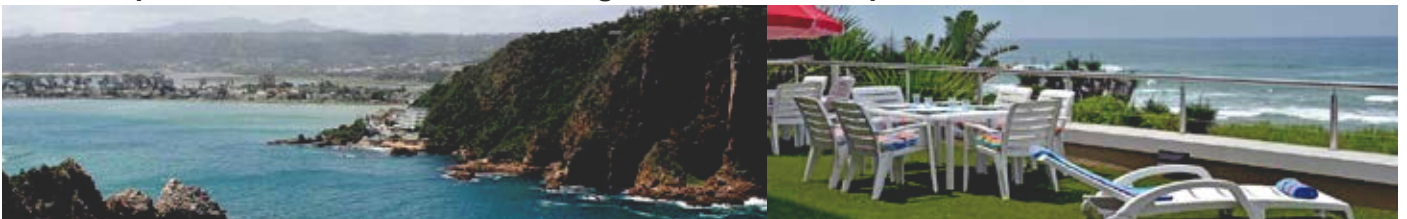
**Heading to South Africa? This is what you can expect**



**Wine & Dine:** Indulge yourself - enjoy exquisite award-winning wines in incredible surroundings in the glorious vineyards of the Cape Winelands



**Beach Time:** Chill out on world-famous beaches - take a dip in the refreshingly cool waters of the Cape and the Garden Route to diving in to the warm tropical waters of Kwa-Zulu Natal.



**Safari Magic:** With safari destinations to suit every taste and budget, South Africa is home to some of Africa's finest big game parks and reserves hosting the Big 5 and much more.



**Adventurous Appetite:** South Africa is home to the ultimate adventure experiences such as shark cage diving, scuba diving, sky diving and the world's highest bungee jump.





## The 9 provinces and what to expect

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### Country Overview

South Africa is divided into nine provinces, each with its own charm and attractions that you can choose to visit. From the hip and happening metropolis of Gauteng to the laid back 'fairest Cape of them all', to the game rich savannahs of Mpumalanga to the mountain kingdoms of KwaZulu Natal, there is so much on offer for everyone to experience and enjoy.

#### Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape frontier has an interesting climate ranging from the semi-desert Karoo to the lush rainforests of Alexandria. The province is generally flat and mountainous in sections with ranges such as the Stormberg and Drakensberg providing great hiking and biking trails. It is home to the famous Addo Elephant National Park as well as several other well-known private game reserves such as Shamwari and Amakhala and is a no malaria area. For those looking at raw and rustic travel experiences, the Wild Coast awaits and is ever popular with backpackers.

**Great for:** Bush and beach combination holidays, malaria-free safaris, family holidays and hiking tours.



#### Western Cape

The Western Cape is home to Africa's southernmost point and its heart is the Mother City – the stirring City of Cape Town. The iconic Table Mountain, the impressive Cape Point, Nelson Mandela's prison on Robben Island and the beaches and thick forests of the Garden Route all have to be visited. Inland from the coast, which borders both the Indian and Atlantic oceans, one will find the majestic Cape wine lands, which offer wine-tasting excursions of Cape Town. Table Mountain dominates the skyline of Cape Town. Set in a National park, great for hiking to enjoy the beautiful fynbos in its natural habitat.

**Great for:** Road-tripping, wining and dining, the incredible natural and cultural attractions.



#### KwaZulu-Natal

KwaZulu-Natal, the home of the Zulu kingdom, stretches from the Drakensberg mountain range in the west, through the rolling hills of the natal midlands and the savannahs of northern Zululand to the tropical beaches on the Indian Ocean. This province is diverse in its offerings. Exotic beach resorts dot the coast while inland mountain retreats and quaint BnB's allow one to relax and unwind. For good reason KwaZulu-Natal is a popular vacation destination for the locals of South Africa and is definitely worth a visit.

**Great for:** Battlefield tours, exceptional game parks such as Hluwe-Imfolozi and Phinda, hiking the Berg, lazing about in beautiful warm oceans.



#### North West

The North West consists of rolling grassland and savannahs that rise slowly up into the Magaliesberg mountain range. Along the southern border of the province one will find the Vaal River, one of the largest rivers in South Africa and a watersports hotspot. The North West Province is home to the gambling and golfing Mecca of Sun City and the Palace of the Lost City. Two of South Africa's top malaria-free safari destinations are found here in the Pilanesberg National Park and Madikwe Game Reserve.

**Great for:** Malaria free safaris, short-break safari holidays, hiking the Magaliesburg and hot-air balloon safaris.

*Get in touch with the Safari Index team to plan your dream South African safari holiday.*

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## What to see and do...

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### Limpopo

Limpopo is South Africa's northern most province and is named after the Limpopo River basin which flows along its boundary. Limpopo is South Africa's gateway to Africa as it shares borders with Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The province is home to several incredibly large Baobab trees, world heritage sites featuring bushmen rock art sites, iron age artefacts and fossilized dinosaur footprints. The province is home to fantastic safari parks such as Kruger, Mapungubwe and Marakele.

**Great for:** Big 5 safaris, malaria free safaris in the Waterberg, birding safaris, incredible landscapes and cultural heritage.



### Northern Cape

The Northern Cape is South Africa's largest province in terms of ground area. It dominated by semi desert like landscape which comprises large tracts of the Karoo, Namaqualand and Kalahari. Wild daisies carpet the arid Namaqualand region in the springtime, drawing thousands to enjoy this natural phenomenon. The province is also known for its gemstones. The Big Hole in Kimberley which was dug by hand is of particular historical interest and where the largest diamonds have been unearthed.

**Great for:** Star-gazing in the Karoo, Kalahari big cat game viewing, Kimberley Big Hole, flowering Namaqualand, paddling the Orange River.



### Free State

The Free State is locally known as South Africa's breadbasket as it is situated on flat grassy plains which provides rich soil for farming the county's grains. Towards the northern part of the province the flat lands arch in elevation as they lift to form the Maluti Mountains. This area plays host to the famous Golden Gate Highlands National Park which has some of the most beautiful vistas due to its higher elevation. The smaller towns such as Clarens are great stop overs on road trips and host interesting arts and crafts communities.

**Great for:** Hiking the Golden Gate Mountains, Clarens village tours, road tripping on open roads.



### Gauteng

The economic hub of South Africa, Gauteng (meaning place of gold due to its origins in the gold rush of the early 1900's), plays host to the famous Cradle of Humankind where the oldest hominoid fossils have been discovered. It has breath-taking botanical gardens, sophisticated first-world cities, vibrant townships to explore and smaller game reserves great for day visits. Most of the province is on what is known as the Highveld, which is a high-altitude grasslands which slope down into the savannahs of the bordering provinces and rise into the Magaliesberg Mountains and Witwatersrand.

**Great for:** Cradle of Humankind tours, Anti-apartheid and mining museums, superb restaurants and shopping malls.



### Mpumalanga

Mpumalanga is well known for as South Africa's premier safari destinations as it hosts the finest safari lodges and bush camps in and around the iconic Kruger National Park. This province is mainly made up of the Lowveld which forms the base of the Drakensberg Escarpment in the west and stretches out all the way to the Mozambique border in the east. This massive expanse of bushveld and wilderness is home to an awe-inspiring abundance of animal, plant, bird and reptile species. The area is also known for being one of the best places on the planet to see the Big 5 in the wild.

**Great for:** Classic big 5 safari hotspot, Kruger National Park, super luxury lodges, Blyde River Canyon.



*The Safari Index team can help you plan your ultimate South African holiday safari. From luxury lodges to affordable budget holidays.*

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## Useful info for visiting South Africa

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## Visas

### Do you need a Visa to visit South Africa?

South Africa is a Visa-free country to a large number of countries and for those that are not on this list a Visa can easily be organised at your local South African embassy. The following countries are exempt from needing a Visa – but remember it is always a good idea just to contact the South African embassy to confirm.

Visas are **NOT** needed by the following nationals:

-Australia	-Austria	-Belgium
-Canada	-Denmark	-Finland
-France	-Germany	-Greece
-Iceland	-Ireland	-Italy
-Monaco	-Netherlands	-Norway
-Portugal	-Russian Federation	-Spain
-Sweden	-Switzerland	-United Kingdom
-United States of America		

## Climate

South Africa has been described as having the best climate in the world. It's an ideal holiday destination year round as the country enjoys warm, sunny days throughout the year and mildly chilly nights during the winter months. Rainfall occurs in the summer months, (November to March) except for the Cape region which has the bulk of its rainfall during the winter months of June to August.

When is the best time to visit? Although South Africa can be visited at any time of the year safaris best undertaken during the winter months of April to October while Cape Town and the Garden Route are great to head to in summer months from October to March.

## Crime

South Africa is a country of warm smiles, sun filled days and fascinating cultural diversity. It unfortunately also has a reputation for being a country with a high crime rate. While not completely inaccurate, statistics are high/ However most crime takes place in 'crime hotspots' which are mainly focussed in inner city and some economically depressed urban areas. Although it is unlikely that one will experience crime first hand, it is advisable to always be aware of your surroundings, keep an eye on belongings and do not flash them about and follow your guide or accommodation's recommendations of which areas to avoid.



## Malaria

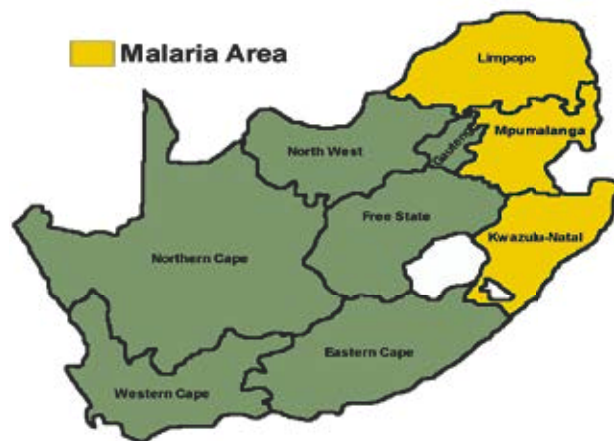
There are some areas in South Africa where malaria occurs. Malaria is a common illness found in the Sub-Saharan areas of Africa and is transmitted via the female anopheles mosquito. Most of South Africa is malaria-free though.

The anopheles mosquito that carries the malaria disease are found in the far north and east of the country in the Limpopo, Mpumalanga and northern Kwa-Zulu Natal areas.

### Which areas are known for having malaria?

The following areas are known for being high risk Malaria areas; the Kruger National Park, the game parks and coastline in the northern half of KwaZulu-Natal and the northern and eastern parts of Limpopo.

The high risk months are the summer months of September to May when rainfall is at its highest.



### What precautions to take?

- Speak to your local doctor about taking anti-malaria prophylactic medication.
- It is advisable to wear long-sleeved shirts and long-sleeved trousers at night (mosquitoes tend to be most active in the early evening).
- Make use of insect repellents on a regular basis, spraying any exposed skin every hour.
- If possible burn insecticide oils or candles in your bedroom.
- Sleep under a mosquito net. Nets are available in most upmarket safari lodges in malaria areas.

*Chat to one of our safari experts today! We are there to help you plan your perfect safari.*

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