

South Africa

(An introduction)

Global Connections (Stage 1 Geography)

© Geography Teachers Association NSW

Locating South Africa



Travelling from Sydney to South Africa

Qantas and Virgin Australia fly from Sydney to Johannesburg.

The flights to Johannesburg from Sydney take about 14 hours 10 minutes.



South Africa Quick Facts

- South Africa is located at the southern tip of the African continent.
- The official name of South Africa is the Republic of South Africa.
- South Africa's population was 57 million in early 2018.
- South Africa has three capital cities, Cape Town, Bloemfontein and Pretoria.
- The largest city in South Africa is Johannesburg. Other major cities include Soweto and Durban.
- South Africa has 11 official languages, including Zulu, Afrikaans, Xhosa and English.
- South Africa's economy is the largest in Africa.
- South Africa's coastline stretches over 2500 kilometres (1553 miles) in length.
- South Africa is home to a wide variety of animals including giraffes, hippopotamus, leopards and lions.



South Africa's flag

South African Attractions



Major Attractions

The majority of South Africa's tourist attractions are features of the natural environment, especially its landscapes and wildlife.

- Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces
- Kgalagadi Transfrontier National Park, Northern Cape
- iSimangaliso Wetland Park, KwaZulu-Natal



Source: Shutterstock.com

South Africa's national parks and other major attractions



Blyde River Canyon
Nature Reserve,



Source: Shutterstock.com

Stellenbosch is one of the most picturesque towns in South Africa. It features farms, old oak trees, and white-washed Cape Dutch dwellings. It is one of the best preserved towns from the times of the Dutch East India Company.



Source: Shutterstock.com

Cape Town, Western Cape



Source: Shutterstock.com

The Drakensberg, KwaZulu-Natal.
The Drakenberg is the eastern
portion of the Great Escarpment,
which forms the edge of the
central Southern African plateau.



Robben Island,
Western Cape. The
island on which
Nelson Mandela was
imprisoned.

Source: Shutterstock.com

The Palace of the Lost City at Sun City



The Lost City Resort, in the North West Province, is one of South Africa's most famous tourist attractions. The vast resort includes luxury hotels, golf course, wave pools, casino, an animal world and bird sanctuary and a water park.

South Africa's Weather and Climate

South Africa's summers are mostly sunny and hot throughout the country. Winters are generally mild (meaning it does not get too cold). Overall, the country has lower average temperatures than other countries within this range of latitude, like Australia, because much of the interior is at a higher elevation (height above sea level).

While the Western Cape region has a Mediterranean climate, much like Perth and Adelaide, with winter rainfall, most of the country experiences summer rain.



South African Foods

Boerewors: A long sausage containing meat (mainly beef) and spices.



Bobotie: Spiced minced meat baked with an egg-based topping.



Biltong: A form of dried, cured meat that is chewed as a snack.



Koeksisters: Deep fried dough rich in syrup or honey.



Chakalaka: A spicy vegetable relish, traditionally served with bread, pap, stews or curries



Mealie pap: A coarse flour made from maize. Usually served as a porridge or with chakalaka.

South African Celebrations

Freedom Day (April 27): A celebration of South Africa's successful fight for freedom and democracy.

Heritage Day (September 24): Celebrating the cultural heritage of many ethnic groups that make up the 'Rainbow Nation'.

- Sports! Rugby, Soccer, Cricket

Mandela Day (July 18): Nelson Mandela's birthday is celebrated and people are supposed to donate 67 minutes of their time to a charitable or community activity.

Day of Reconciliation (December 16): A day to foster national unity and reconciliation.