

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ❑ Driving is on the left.
- ❑ Drivers are required to carry a valid license with photo identification, good for up to six months; International Driver's Permit (IDP), vehicle documents and proof of insurance.
- ❑ Travelers who do not have two consecutive blank pages in their passport will be denied entry; passports must also have an expiration date of at least 30 days from date of entry. Carry passport/visa at all times; if possible, leave original documents in a safe location and carry copies.
- ❑ Visitors who plan to drive across any national border with South Africa must first obtain a permit from the Cross-border Road Transport Agency. Failure to do so may result in arrest.
- ❑ All travelers must have proof of an onward or return ticket. Those without a ticket are required to make a deposit with customs equaling the amount of a return ticket; money is refunded after departure from South Africa.
- ❑ The rand (ZAR) is the official currency.
- ❑ Pedestrians are frequently involved in serious and deadly crashes. Always cross at marked crossings and be alert to drivers ignoring persons on foot.
- ❑ Do not walk alone, particularly after dark.
- ❑ Women, especially those traveling or driving alone, are at risk. South Africa has a high rate of sexual assault and gender-based violence.
- ❑ Distances between destinations can be far apart, and may result in driver fatigue.
- ❑ Distracted driving, including the use of handheld electronic devices by drivers, is widespread.
- ❑ Drive with windows up and doors locked at all times. Consider hiring a professional local driver from a reputable agency.
- ❑ Legal blood alcohol limit is below 0.05 g/dl for all drivers. Despite legal alcohol limits, drink driving is common and a contributing factor in many serious and fatal crashes; incidences increase at night.
- ❑ Males account for about 76% of all road traffic fatalities.
- ❑ There are an estimated 24.5 road deaths per 100,000 people in South Africa, compared to 2.1 in Sweden and 1.5 in Norway.



Source: CIA Factbook

ROAD CULTURE

- **Reckless** and aggressive driving practices are common. Drivers regularly speed, ignore traffic signs and overtake from any lane, including hard road shoulders.
- **Traffic laws** are poorly enforced. Many motorists fail to observe roundabout right-of-way rules.
- **There are** high incidences of road rage.
- **Motorists** often behave aggressively toward pedestrians and fail to yield, even at marked crossings.
- **Pedestrians may** engage in risky behavior, including walking along dark roads at night and crossing major highways when traffic is present.
- **Hitchhikers** are common in rural areas. Do not stop or offer rides to strangers.
- **Truck drivers** frequently use hard shoulders on single-lane roads as a separate lane.
- **Minibus drivers** are often unlicensed, careless and ignore road safety laws.

ROAD CONDITIONS

- **Of the** 750,000 km (466,028 miles) of roads, 158,124 km (98,254 miles) are paved and 591,876 km (367,775 miles) are unpaved.
- **Roads are** generally in good condition. Some roads in rural and remote areas have large potholes and are not as well maintained.
- **Roads** become dangerously slippery during and after rain.
- **Lighting** is inadequate or lacking in many areas.
- **Traffic lights** (called "robots") are often out of service. Rolling electricity blackouts (called "load shedding") occur frequently, affecting traffic signals and causing traffic jams. Crime levels increase during load shedding.
- **Blackouts** occur countrywide and can last up to twelve hours within a 24-hour period, and may also shut down security systems. Eskom is South Africa's public electricity Utility, and publishes a list of planned blackouts at: <https://loadshedding.eskom.co.za/>

Road Conditions, continued

- **There are** many toll roads. On most, tolls may be paid in cash or by credit card at toll booths. In Gauteng, prepaid toll passes must be purchased in advance.
- **Demonstrations** and strikes often take place and may turn suddenly violent. Roadblocks are frequently created from burning vehicles, and protests are often accompanied by physical attacks and persons throwing rocks or other objects.
- **Many** demonstrations take place on or around significant holidays, in response to political or economic issues and during international events. Protests may include violent interactions between taxi and rideshare drivers. Road travel and public transportation may be interrupted, along with other services, including the delivery of water, electricity, food and fuel.
- **Protests** frequently occur along the border with Mozambique.
- **Violent crimes**, including armed robbery, carjacking, rape, murder, mugging and kidnapping are common and often target visitors.
- **Attacks** against motorists, including car jackings, occur at traffic lights and on/off ramps when vehicles are moving slowly, and during blackouts when traffic lights do not work.
- **Vehicles** leaving Tambo Airport in Johannesburg are often followed for the purposes of robbery.
- **Do not** travel to informal “settlement” areas, or visit remote areas or beaches. Risks increase after dark.
- **Violent crimes** and attacks take place on secondary roads to and from Cape Town airport. Avoid the R300; stay on M3 and N2 roads, and on the airport approach road (exit 16 on the N2). Do not use the R300 and R310 between Muizenberg and the N2 intersection; Borchers Quarry Road leading to Nyanga; or follow GPS directions. Do not take shortcuts.
- **GPS navigation** systems may route drivers and pedestrians into dangerous areas throughout South Africa. Research route carefully for possible risks. Carry an up-to-date paper map.
- **Crime levels** are particularly high in the Central Business Districts (CBD) of cities; rates increase at night. Avoid these areas after dark: Berea, Hillbrow and Yeoville in Johannesburg; Sunnyside in Pretoria; the beachfront and Victoria wharf in Durban; and downtown hotels near the waterfront in Cape Town.
- **Pedestrian infrastructure** is better developed in cities than in other areas. Even where marked crosswalks exist, drivers may ignore persons on foot.
- **Pedestrians** often walk in roads or through traffic, even on highways.
- **Pedestrians are** at risk in Kruger National Park and Table Mountain National Park, including the Lion’s Head and Signal Hill areas, due to muggings and violent attacks against visitors. The Numbi Gate at Kruger National Park, and the R538 road leading to it are common locations of protests and violence.
- **Express kidnappings** (criminals force victims to withdraw money from ATMs before releasing them; or hold them for several days for further bank withdrawals) happen near the Lebombo border crossing with Mozambique at Nelspruit, Mpumalanga.
- **Criminals** pretending to be police officers or tourist police may place blue lights on vehicles to stop motorists for robbery or theft of vehicle. There is no tourist police force.
- **Scams** forcing motorists to stop include placing spikes (called “spiking”), broken glass or large stones on roads. Drive around obstacles and do not stop.
- **Many people** travel by bicycles without lights or reflectors and are difficult to see at night.
- **Cycling** infrastructure is lacking. Cyclists are often required to share busy roadways with motorized traffic.

Maximum Speed Limits (unless otherwise posted)

Type of road	Maximum speed
Urban areas	60 kph (37 mph)
Rural roads	100 kph (62 mph)
Highways	120 kph (74 mph)

Always adjust speed according to signage, hazards and weather conditions.

Examples of road and traffic signs in South Africa

								
Hidden driveway	Toll road	No entry	Yield to oncoming traffic	Pedestrians and cyclists only	Gate ahead	U-turns prohibited	Pedestrians only	One-way road

Road Conditions, continued

- **Livestock** and large wild animals often wander onto roads.
- **The following roads** may present particular challenges to motorists:
 - » **Moloto Road/R573** is considered one of the deadliest roads in South Africa, and has been the site of the highest number of road fatalities in the past five years. The road is poorly maintained. Road signs and markings are lacking. Loose animals and large wildlife often wander into traffic. Dense commuter traffic includes buses, taxis, private cars and trucks. Reckless road behavior, including speeding and dangerous overtaking, is common.
 - » **De Beer's Pass/Debeerspas/S61** in KwaZulu-Natal province linking Ladysmith and Harrismith is also considered among the most dangerous roads in the country, with a high number of serious and fatal crashes. There are many switchbacks, curves and concealed corners on the 68.7-km (42.68-mile) route. Rapidly changing weather conditions, including heavy winter snow, add to risks. The road is subject to sudden closures.
 - » **Clarence Drive**, located on the east coast of False Bay in the Western Cape Province, connects Rooi-El to Gordon's Bay. This scenic route is popular with tourists and may carry heavy traffic during good weather. The road has 77 bends and severe corners. Rockfalls and mudslides are common during and after heavy rain.

REGIONAL AND SEASONAL CONDITIONS

- **Johannesburg** is located at an altitude of 1,753 meters (5,751 feet) above sea level. Be alert to symptoms of altitude sickness. Symptoms, including dizziness, lack of coordination, headache, fatigue, shortness of breath and nausea, and can impair driver judgment and increase road risks.
- **Serious** and fatal road crashes increase on weekends and around major public holidays, including Freedom Day, International Worker's Day, Heritage Day, Day of Reconciliation, Christmas and New Year's. Some dates may vary by year.
- **South Africa** is subject to flooding, wildfire/bushfires, drought and tsunamis.
- **Flood risks** occur year-round. Do not step or drive into flood waters, which may contain strong currents and obscure tree branches or other debris.
- **Wildfires/bushfires** often break out during hot or dry weather, and may affect rural and urban locations. Smoke from fires can impact visibility.
- **Drought conditions** may be prolonged, and affect the Western Cape Province, including Cape Town.

- **Tsunamis** may occur in coastal areas following undersea seismic activity, or earthquakes in other countries.
- **Be familiar with emergency procedures.** The Red Cross provides a website and free, downloadable emergency app: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies>

TRANSPORTATION

- **Transportation** options include cars, private taxis, minibus taxis, rideshares, buses, electric bicycles ("e-bikes"), electric foot scooters ("e-scooters"), trains and boats.
- **Use of** public transportation is not advised. Minibus taxis, MetroRail trains, long-distance public trains and coach services are often unreliable and carry the risk of theft and violent assault.
- **Taxis include** private metered vehicles and shared minibuses. There is a complex system of hand signals used by passengers to flag minibus taxis to indicate direction of travel, making their use difficult for visitors.
- **Use only** licensed private taxis ordered by phone or arranged through a reputable hotel. Have hotel pre-arrange for return trip.
- **Official taxis cannot** be hailed on the street.
- **If taxi travel** is necessary, ride in the rear seat and keep windows up and doors locked.
- **Even vehicles** parked at taxi stands may not be safe or reliable.
- **Avoid minibus** and unlicensed taxis. Minibuses are often overcrowded, poorly maintained and aggressively driven.
- **Minibus** taxi drivers generally play loud music.
- **Be familiar** with route as many drivers do not call out stops; passengers are expected to request stops in advance.
- **Cash payment** is required for minibus taxis. Fares are collected by onboard conductors.
- **There are** many electric motorbikes used for deliveries. Drivers are often reckless.
- **Taxi and** rideshare app scams are widespread, including airports where unregulated drivers pose as rideshare or taxi app drivers. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver's name. Verify all information before entering vehicle. Do not wait for vehicle in streets.
- **Taxis** operated as rideshares by international companies, and which can be confirmed via app, may be safer than other kinds of taxis.
- **Due to** violent interactions between rideshare and taxi drivers, passengers should not allow rideshare drivers to pick up or drop them off near a taxi stand. Hostility

Transportation, continued

and fighting may affect passengers. Conflict is common, particularly near Gautrain stations and at airports.

- **Bus networks** are operated by multiple companies in individual municipalities. Buses include full-size vehicles and minibuses.
- **City bus** companies include Golden Arrow, Go George Integrated Public Transport Network, and MyCiTi Bus.
- **Regularly scheduled** long-distance coach bus service is available to nearby countries, including Namibia, Mozambique, Botswana and Zimbabwe.
- **Minibuses** are the main form of public transport in most areas. Vehicles have a driver and an attendant called a “gaatjie” who calls out stops.
- **Airport shuttle buses** operated by international hotel brands are generally regarded as safer than other forms of public transportation.
- **The national rail** network is extensive. There are no international passenger routes linking to nearby countries.
- **Several** serious train crashes have occurred in recent years. Safety practices may not meet western standards.
- **Most** passenger trains are operated by the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA). Services include MetroRail commuter trains, Shosholozu Meyl intercity trains and Premier Classe luxury trains linking Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban.
- **Gautrain** is a private commuter rail service.
- **Do not walk** to or from Gautrain stations after dark.
- **Violent attacks** have taken place onboard commuter and metro trains between Johannesburg and Pretoria, and on commuter trains in Cape Town.
- **MetroRail** commuter trains operate networks in Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape. Trains are not regarded as safe. Criminal activity, including fires deliberately set in train cars, is common.
- **Published** MetroRail and Shosholozu Meyl service schedules are often out of date.
- **Trains** that are generally regarded as safe and reliable include long-distance rail services operated by Shosholozu Meyl; rapid rail Gautrain between O.R. Tambo International airport, Johannesburg and Pretoria; and luxury rail services, including Shosholozu Meyl Premier Classe, Blue Train, and Rovos Rail.
- **For safety**, avoid second- and third-class train travel.
- **At the time** of this report’s preparation, no international rail routes connect to nearby countries.
- **Many** e-bike and e-scooter drivers ignore the safety of pedestrians.

- **Ferries** operate in some areas, including regular service from Cape Town to Robben Island. There are sightseeing cruises and boat tours available in coastal areas. Vessels are operated by multiple companies. Safety standards vary. If traveling by boat, do not board vessels that appear overcrowded or in disrepair. Avoid travel during inclement weather. Bring your own life preserver.
- **There are** large cruise ship ports in multiple coastal cities. Motorized and foot traffic increases significantly when ships are in port.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- **Drivers must** be a minimum of 18 years old. Age to rent a vehicle varies by company, and can be as high as 25.
- **Seat belt** use is mandatory for drivers and passengers.
- **Children** under the age of three years must be seated in a child safety restraint.
- **Children** are allowed to ride in front seats.
- **Helmet use** is compulsory for motorcycle drivers and passengers. Helmets must be fastened. Compliance is high.
- **Children** may be motorcycle passengers.
- **Intersections without** functioning traffic lights should be treated as four-way stops, with the first vehicle to arrive having priority.
- **Small** roundabouts function as four-way stops.
- **At large** roundabouts, give way to traffic approaching from the right.
- **Carrying** gasoline in portable containers is illegal.
- **Drivers must** maintain a minimum distance of 1.5 meters (5 feet) between their motorized vehicles and bicyclists.
- **Pedestrians are** required to use sidewalks, footpaths and marked crossings where available.
- **Pedestrians**, bicyclists and drivers of motorcycles with engines less than 50 cubic centimeters, or which are electricity-powered, are prohibited from freeways.
- **Electric foot scooters** (e-scooters) are restricted to private use; and where signs indicate in neighborhoods called “estates.” Regulations regarding the use of e-scooters, including driver’s licenses, age limits, use of footpaths, helmet requirements and speed limits, is inconsistent and varies by location.
- **In most** parts of the country, e-bikes are regarded as vehicles. Drivers must have a valid license and follow all road rules.
- **Drivers** must yield to persons moving livestock across roads.
- **On-the-spot** fines are illegal. Police must issue a ticket to be paid at a bank or police station.
- **Police may** carry out random breath tests.

Cape Town (Administrative Capital)

- » Located on the southwestern coast. Location of a major cruise port. Motorized and foot traffic increases significantly when ships are in port.
- » Transportation options include cars, private taxis, minibus taxis, rideshares, buses, electric bicycles (“e-bikes”), electric foot scooters (“e-scooters”), trains and boats.
- » Main routes from the city are the N1 (runs northeast), N2 (follows the east coast), and N7 (along the west coast).
- » Traffic is regarded as some of the heaviest in South Africa. Traffic jams may last for hours, and gridlock is common during commuter rush hours.
- » Driving is not recommended. Consider hiring a professional local driver from a reputable agency.
- » There are many electric motorbikes used for deliveries; drivers are often reckless.
- » At fuel stations, attendants handle refueling.
- » Use of public transportation is not advised. Minibus taxis, MetroRail trains, long-distance public trains and coach services are often unreliable and carry the risk of theft and violent assault.
- » Taxis include private, metered taxis; app-based taxis including Bolt (formerly called Taxify); and shared minibuses.
- » There is a complex system of hand signals used by passengers to flag minibus taxis to indicate direction of travel, making their use difficult for visitors.
- » Private taxis are operated by multiple companies and display rates on vehicle doors. Costs vary by company. Some companies may offer a fixed rate to the airport.
- » Rideshares are available. Rideshare app scams are widespread, including airports where unregulated drivers pose as rideshare or taxi app drivers. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle. Do not wait for vehicle in streets.
- » Rideshare, traditional taxi and app-based taxi fees fluctuate throughout the day and increase at night. For more information on taxis and rideshares, see “Transportation.”
- » The bus network is extensive. Buses include full-size vehicles and minibuses.
- » MyCiTi bus routes serving the central business district and Atlantic Seaboard are considered safer than other buses in the city.
- » Long-distance bus routes serve other main cities in South Africa, as well as destinations in Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. Major companies include Greyhound, Translux, Intercape Mainliner and Baz Bus.
- » Minibuses are the main form of public transport in most areas. Vehicles have a driver and an attendant called a “gaatjie” who calls out stops. For details on using buses, see “Transportation.”
- » The national rail network is extensive. There are no international passenger routes linking to nearby countries.
- » Cape Town railway station is the main station. Bellville railway station is the second largest station, and is the main hub for commuter trains and many long-distance trains.
- » Several serious train crashes have occurred in recent years. Safety practices may not meet western standards.
- » Violent attacks have taken place on commuter trains.
- » Pedestrian infrastructure is underdeveloped. Pedestrian zones include Greenmarket Square and St. George’s Mall.
- » Many motorists disregard the safety of persons on foot, even at crosswalks.
- » Pedestrians often fail to use crossings, and may run suddenly across busy streets where traffic is present.
- » Bicycle travel carries risks. There are some cycling lanes in city center, but general infrastructure is lacking. Motorists often ignore the safety of cyclists.
- » Ferries operate in some areas, including regular service from Cape Town to Robben Island. There are regular sightseeing cruises and boat tours available in coastal areas. Vessels are operated by multiple companies. Safety standards vary. If traveling by boat, do not board vessels that appear overcrowded or in disrepair. Avoid travel during inclement weather. Bring your own life preserver.
- » Cape Town International Airport is located about 20 km (12.4 miles) east of the city.
- » Transport between the airport and the city includes cars, taxis, rideshares, buses and hotel shuttles. Airport shuttle buses operated by international hotel brands are generally regarded as safer than other forms of public transportation.

Cape Town, continued

- » MyCiTi rapid transit buses run from 4:40 am to 10 pm, with connections to MetroRail commuter trains. Ticket kiosks are located outside the arrivals terminal at the MyCiTi bus shelter.
- » Official airport taxis operated by Touch Down Taxis are located outside of the arrivals terminal. Book vehicles at the company desk before exiting the airport. Avoid drivers soliciting for fares in the arrivals area; drivers wearing vests with the words “official taxi” may not be legitimate.
- » Private and hotel shuttles are available and should be booked in advance of travel.
- » A detailed map of airport transport stations is available at: <https://capetown-airport.co.za/ground-transport-info/>
- » Many major car rental agencies are represented at the airport’s Transport Plaza and Central Terminal Building, reached via pedestrian subways located on either side of the central terminal. Drivers requiring an automatic transmission should reserve a vehicle well in advance of travel.

Johannesburg

- » Largest city. Linked to Cape Town via the N1, and to Durban via the N3. A ring road around the city is comprised of the N1 on the north and west, the N3 on the east and the N12 on the south, dissected by the M1 and M2 freeways.
- » Transportation options include cars, private taxis, minibus taxis, rideshares, buses, electric bicycles (“e-bikes”), electric foot scooters (“e-scooters”), tuk tuks and trains.
- » Driving is not recommended. Traffic is chaotic. There are frequent crashes. Long-lasting traffic jams occur regularly during commuter rush hours.
- » There are many electric motorbikes used for deliveries. Drivers may be reckless.
- » Street vendors on foot are common. Motorists stopped in traffic are often approached by persons on foot offering goods for sale. Vendors may be difficult to see because they are obstructed by traffic.
- » Pedestrians are at risk from inattentive drivers and street crime. Avoid walking in the Hillbrow, Berea, Joubert Park and Yeoville districts.
- » Taxis include private, metered sedans and minibuses. Shared minibus taxis should be avoided.
- » There is a complex system of hand signals used by passengers to flag minibus taxis, making their use difficult for visitors.
- » Avoid unlicensed and minibus taxis. Minibuses are often overcrowded, poorly maintained and aggressively driven.
- » Rideshares are available. Violent interactions between rideshare and taxi drivers often take place. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle. For more information on the use of taxis and rideshares, see “Transportation.”
- » Public transportation is limited and often unreliable. Drivers may be reckless and ignore safety rules. Use of public transportation is not advised.
- » Bus networks are operated by multiple companies.
- » Buses include blue, full-sized vehicles; minibuses, double decker metro buses and older orange “putco” buses.
- » The main bus terminals for long-distances buses are Park Station, and Johannesburg International Transport Interchange a few blocks from Park Station.
- » The BRT (bus rapid transit) system is operated by Rea Vaya and travels along dedicated traffic lanes. Buses stop every 500 meters (547 yards) and have level boarding platforms. Reloadable smart cards are required for travel.
- » Minibuses are the main form of public transport in most areas. Vehicles have a driver and an attendant called a “gaatjie” who calls out stops. For further information on bus use and safety, see “Transportation.”
- » The national rail network is extensive. There are no international passenger routes linking to nearby countries.
- » Johannesburg is the national hub for South African long-distance rail travel. Avoid second- and third-class train travel due to safety concerns.
- » Johannesburg Park Station is the main train station. There is a tunnel connection to nearby Gautrain station. From here, multiple high-speed trains link to Pretoria and O.R. Tambo International Airport.
- » Most passenger trains are operated by the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA).
- » Several serious train crashes have occurred in recent years. Safety practices may not meet western standards.



Johannesburg, continued

- » Violent attacks have taken place onboard commuter and metro trains between Johannesburg and Pretoria, and on commuter trains in Cape Town.
- » Gautrain rapid commuter rail serves requires a reloadable “Swift” card or contactless bank card for travel.
- » Gautrain stations include Park Station, Rosebank, Sandton, Marlboro and Midrand. Feeder buses connect Gautrain stations, but do not run on holidays or weekends.
- » MetroRail commuter trains have frequent service to suburbs and towns outside the city. MetroRail is regarded as less safe than Gautrain.
- » The main MetroRail station is Johannesburg Park Station. The Gautrain station is nearby. These stations are connected by an underground station. The Gautrain station is equipped with cameras and security guards.
- » Three-wheeled motorized tuk tuks operate in some city areas, including Sandton Central and Melville. Drivers are often reckless. Avoid tuk tuks.
- » Many e-bike and e-scooter drivers ignore the safety of pedestrians.
- » O.R. Tambo International Airport is about 21 km (13 miles) from the city. Transportation between the airport and city is by car, taxi, bus and train.
- » Licensed airport taxis have yellow “taxi” signs on roofs, and are located in queues outside of the arrivals area. Avoid drivers soliciting for fares in the luggage claim area.
- » The airport train station offers highspeed Gautrain service to Sandton and Pretoria. The station is located in the Central Terminal Building one level below the departures area.
- » Airport shuttle buses operated by international hotel brands are generally regarded as safer than other public transport.
- » Rental car agencies are represented at the airport. Drivers requiring an automatic transmission should reserve a vehicle well in advance of travel.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND INCLUSIONS FOR MOBILITY CHALLENGED

- **Conditions vary** throughout South Africa. Not all tourist attractions and nearby restaurants are equipped with ramps and accessibility features. In general, accessibility is limited in public transportation, lodging and overall infrastructure.
- **Laws** requiring access to buildings for persons with mobility, sensory or other challenges are rarely enforced.
- **“Dial-a-Ride”** services for passengers with mobility, sensory or other challenges is available in Cape Town and Durban; similar services in Johannesburg are operated by Metrobus and Rea Vaya; and by A Re Yeng and Tshwane Bus Services in Pretoria.
- **Some** taxi and ride-hailing apps offer special services, including uberASSIST in Cape Town and Johannesburg.
- **Cape Town International Airport** is equipped with gradient ramps, “travelator” moving paths, dedicated elevators and wheelchair-accessible entrances to shops, restaurants and other public areas.
- **Parking badges/permits** issued in other countries for mobility challenged drivers are not recognized in South Africa.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- **U.S. citizens** are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) prior to departure for updates on travel concerns in their destinations: <https://mytravel.state.gov/s/step>
- **Pre-program** emergency numbers into your phone before departure.
- **Responders** to emergency numbers in remote areas may not speak English.
 - » Police: 10111
 - » Emergency calls from a mobile phone: 112
 - » Ambulance and medical assistance: 10177
 - » Fire: 10111 or 10112
 - » Cape Town Emergency: 107 or +27 (0)21 480 7700 from a mobile phone
 - » Search and Rescue: 10177 or 10111
- **Ambulances are not** widely available and may be unreliable outside of major urban centers. Vehicles may not be staffed with trained medical staff, or equipped with up-to-date medical equipment.

Emergency Information, continued

- **Medical professionals** and first responders to emergency calls may take longer to reach the injured and to provide life-saving care outside of major urban areas. In remote areas, air evacuation may be the only option in an emergency.
- **Many** public medical facilities lack adequate supplies and basic resources. Quality of hygiene and care may be below western standards.
- **Doctors and hospitals** generally require payment before admission or treatment. Cash is usually required. Credit cards are often not accepted.
- **Private** medical clinics in main cities, and those located close to game parks, are generally regarded as good, and of high standard. Private facilities require a deposit before admitting patients or the delivery of care.
- **Some medications** prescribed in other countries are illegal in South Africa. Check legality prior to travel, and carry all medicines in original packaging, accompanied by a written doctor's prescription that states the name of the medication, required dosage and that it is for personal use.
- **Counterfeit medications** are common and may contain lethal ingredients. Purchase medications only from doctors at reputable hospitals and clinics.
- **Do not** stop to assist motorists who appear to need help or attempt to flag you down. Report location to police.
- **If involved in a crash:**
 - » Stop your vehicle and remain at the scene until authorities indicate you may leave.
 - » Call 112 and follow instructions given by dispatcher.
 - » Contact car rental agency and insurance company.
 - » Take photos of scene and collect contact information from other driver(s) and any witnesses.
 - » Obtain copy of police report, name of officer(s) and case number.



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR SAFE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRAVEL (ASIRT)

ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey.

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