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MR. JONES

South Africa

OVERVIEW

Introduction

South Africa is an exciting place to visit. Cape Town, with its vibrant nightlife, stylish young people and beautiful surroundings, has become one of the most desirable destinations in the world. And the country's natural attractions are as appealing as ever: the green vineyards and rocky coast of the Cape; the arid landscape of the Karoo; the rich farmlands of the Free State and Mpumalanga; the snowcapped peaks of the uKhahlamba-Drakensberg range; and the verdant hills and wide beaches of KwaZulu-Natal. The country also has more than 300 game and nature reserves, along with some of the finest lodges on the continent. Your surroundings can be as wild or as genteel as you want—or both.

Progress as a nation has been uneven, however, and huge inequities remain between rich and poor. Still, there is sense of reconciliation among the people of South Africa—and, on the whole, a surprising lack of animosity between the races.

Emblematic of South Africa's modern transformation from pariah nation to democratic statehood is Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent almost 20 years as a political prisoner, quarrying lime with pick and shovel, prior to his release and eventual emergence as the country's first democratically elected president. Now inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Robben Island is one of South Africa's most popular tourist attractions, and its transformation from dreaded prison to postapartheid icon typifies an astonishing process accompanied by painful setbacks as well as exhilarating victories.

History

For centuries, South Africa's history was plagued by racial conflicts. Dutch settlers in Cape Town established control over the southern tip of South Africa about 300 years ago by driving out or enslaving the local Khoikhoi (also known as Hottentots) and San (Bushmen) people. The Dutch settlers continued to enlarge their territory in the 18th century, leading to clashes with the Xhosa of the present-day Eastern Cape. More complications were added when the British Empire was given control of the Cape Colony by the Congress of Vienna of 1814-15. The British abolished the slave labor on which the Dutch farmers (Boers—literally "farmers") had long depended. As a result, the Boers migrated northward in what is called the Great Trek, coming into contact with the Zulu nation, which was resident on the eastern coastal belt and escarpment area. A series of wars broke out, ending in the defeat of the Zulus at Blood River. In 1878, the British also fought the Zulus and defeated them the following year.

By the late 19th century, the country we now know as South Africa consisted of four main political entities: the British colonies of the Cape and Natal, and the Boer Republics of the Free State and Transvaal. The discovery of diamonds and gold in the Boer Republics was the catalyst for the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902, which ended in the defeat of the Afrikaners. Eight years later, the Cape, Natal, Transvaal and Orange Free State were merged into the self-governing Union of South Africa.

From the outset, the Union of South Africa granted minimal rights to nonwhite citizens, who were among other things excluded from the vote and had limited rights of land ownership. In 1948, the all-white electorate voted in the Afrikaner-dominated National Party, which swiftly set about entrenching its policy of apartheid (literally *apartness*) through a series of repressive legislations further restricting the rights of nonwhites. This policy of institutionalized racism led to the formation of several organizations dedicated to ending apartheid, including the African National

Congress (ANC). In the 1960s, most such organizations were banned by the government, and antiapartheid leaders such as Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo and Robert Sobukwe were jailed or forced into exile.

Continued violence, diplomatic isolation and economic boycotts forced the National Party to make some concessions in the 1980s, but the apartheid laws were not fully repealed until 1994, when South Africans of all races voted ANC leader Nelson Mandela into power in the country's first democratic elections. First under Mandela, then under his successor, Thabo Mbeki, South Africa has made great strides forward during its early period of democratic rule, and—although a vast disparity in wealth along broad racial lines remains an issue, as does the high rate of violent crime and widespread incidence of HIV infection and AIDS—the country's economy is widely regarded to be in better shape than it ever was under apartheid.

Snapshot

Among the foremost attractions of South Africa are game reserves, indigenous cultures, heritage sites, uncrowded beaches, surfing, narrow-gauge trains, wilderness trails, beautiful mountain scenery, shopping, gold and diamond mines, and a sunny climate year-round.

We think South Africa is a country with something for everyone.

Potpourri

If you're lost in the bush and need to orient yourself, look for a termite mound: It will lean northward.

South Africa is one of the best places in the world to try a shark dive. It involves being lowered in a cage into water known to contain the great white shark. Believe it or not, many find it more exhilarating than terrifying. South Africa was the first country in the world to protect great white sharks within its territorial waters.

South African English contains several unexpected idioms. For example, when South Africans say they will do something "just now," it means they will do it later. "Now now" means right away.

The flight between New York and Johannesburg is one of the longest nonstop commercial flights in the world. The trip covers 8,000 mi/13,000 km in a mere 14.25 hours, stopping to refuel at Dakar, Senegal, the most westerly city in Africa.

The Diski dance is a new dance based on soccer moves that South Africa created specially for the 2010 World Cup. Designed to express the country's unique way of playing soccer, the dance is rhythmic, showy and energetic.

South Africans tend to affectionately abbreviate the names of their cities. As such, Durban is known locally as Durbs, Port Elizabeth as P.E., Pietermaritzburg as 'maritzburg and Jeffrey's Bay as J Bay. Johannesburg, which has long been known as Jo'burg or Joeys, has acquired the more African-style moniker of Jozi.

Governmental separation of powers has more than philosophical standing in South Africa. There are actually three distinct capitals: Pretoria is the administrative and executive capital, but Cape Town is the legislative capital, and Bloemfontein is the judicial capital. Larger and wealthier than all three official capitals, Johannesburg is rightfully regarded as the country's unofficial economic capital.

Mohandas K. Gandhi (later to become Mahatma Gandhi) once practiced law in Durban. In 1893, he was evicted from a "whites only" train carriage at Pietermaritzburg railway station, an incident that helped launch his career in politics.

There are more than 500 wineries in the Western Cape region—many of them offer tours and tastings. One of the most popular wine varieties is pinotage, a versatile hybrid of pinot noir and cinsaut that was first planted in Stellenbosch in the 1920s.

The independent and mountainous nation of Lesotho is completely within the borders of South Africa, and the Kingdom of Swaziland is surrounded by it on three sides (it shares its eastern border with Mozambique).

Confined to the Western Cape, the Cape floral kingdom is by far the smallest of the world's six floral kingdoms. It is dominated by a heath-like cover known as fynbos (literally "fine bush") and is famed for its rich variety of proteas and other flowering plants.

SEE & DO

Recreation

South Africa's climate is ideally suited to outdoor activities, ranging from swimming at one of the subtropical beaches of KwaZulu-Natal or surfing along the Garden Route, to hiking in the Cape Fold and uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park or

teeing off at legendary golf courses associated with international legends such as Ernie Els and Gary Player. Most hotels offer sporting activities ranging from gymnasiums and swimming pools to tennis courts and access to golfing facilities.

A highlight of any trip to South Africa will be the opportunity to see big game—lions, leopards, elephants, rhinos and dozens of grazers ranging from gawking giraffes and striped zebras to the diminutive steenbok and duiker antelopes—whether from a vehicle in the likes of the Kruger Park, or on a guided walk in one of numerous private game reserves. Excellent scuba diving and snorkeling is available off the shores of northern KwaZulu-Natal, and the coast around Cape Town is known for its penguin and seal colonies, as well as seasonal whale-watching. Another important facet of South Africa's natural heritage is a national checklist of more than 800 species of birds, from outsized ostriches to diminutive hummingbirdlike sunbirds.

Beaches

With some 1,860 mi/3,000 km of largely unspoiled coastline, South Africa boasts its fair share of superb swimming beaches. The eastern Indian Ocean coastline generally has a warmer climate and warmer waters than the western Atlantic coastline, with the beaches north of Durban being particularly inviting during the dry winter months of May-October. By contrast, the winter rainfall zone around Cape Town and the Garden Route is the place to head in summer (November-April), where it tends to be very dry and blissfully warm.

Bird Watching

With more than 800 species recorded, including many national and regional endemics, South Africa is one of the top birding destinations in Africa. Several good field guides are available to help first-time visitors. Leading bird-watching sites include the Kruger National Park and the Zululand reserves of northern KwaZulu-Natal, all of which are good for raptors and other large birds. The richest area for southern African endemics, however, is Cape Town and the west coast.

Golf

South Africa is known for its superb golf courses. Designed by Gary Player, the course at Sun City is ranked among the best in the country, and there are dozens of stunners in and around Cape Town and the Garden Route. For the ultimate African golfing experience, however, you need to visit remote Phalaborwa, whose famous course borders the Kruger Park and is regularly visited by elephants, lions, leopards and other large, intimidating mammals—which, needless to say, always have the right of way.

Hiking & Walking

South Africa is a hikers' paradise, and its parks and reserves are serviced by hundreds of overnight trails and an even greater selection of day walks. Dedicated hikers need look no farther than the uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park, which has possibilities for all levels of fitness and interests. Another great montane icon is Table Mountain, whose craggy peaks are draped with flowering proteas, and there are also plenty of bracing walks in the Cape of Good Hope south of Cape Town. Several game reserves in KwaZulu-Natal offer unguided walks in areas rich with wildlife, and guided walks are a highlight of the private reserves bordering the Kruger Park.

Scuba & Snorkeling

The best area for reef diving and snorkeling is the northern part of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, specifically Sodwana Bay with its superb coral outcrops teeming with colorful reef fish. The area is also known for its dense population of turtles and dolphins, which may be seen by divers in summer. Wreck diving is a popular activity around Cape Town, as are caged dives to see great white sharks.

Shopping

The value of the rand against most foreign currencies makes South Africa one of the most inexpensive sources of African souvenirs. Semiprecious stones, gold and diamonds are very reasonable, and the best prices are usually found in Cape Town and Johannesburg. Beadwork, wood carvings, baskets and woven rugs are some of the most popular handicrafts available. And don't be surprised if you come across traditional crafts made from nontraditional resources (like a basket woven with wire instead of reed). South Africa is a great place to buy art from all over Africa. Although you might pay a bit more, the quality will be high and shipping will be much easier than elsewhere on the continent.

Shopping Hours: Generally Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5 pm, Saturday 8:30 am-1 pm, though extended shopping hours are increasingly normal and many shops now stay open on weekday and Saturday evenings, as well as opening briefly on Sunday. Some shops, mainly those in shopping centers, are open Sunday.

Itinerary

Local Tours

Jimmy's Face-to-Face Tours

The Johannesburg-based pioneer of the popular Soweto day tours also offers a good selection of down-to-earth, sensibly priced packages elsewhere in the country. Phone 011-331-6109. <http://www.face2face.co.za>.

Rovos Rail

Luxurious rail tours covering the highlights of South Africa as well as several neighboring countries. Phone 012-315-8242. <http://www.rovos.co.za>.

Day By Day

Most first-time visitors with two or more weeks to spare follow an itinerary running from Johannesburg to Cape Town via the Kruger Park and the east coast. Unless you want to do nothing but drive, however, it is not realistic to cover this road route in its entirety in less than three weeks (as detailed below). So if your time is restricted, it is recommended that you fly one or more of the following legs, most combinations of which are linked by direct flights: Kruger Park and environs to Durban, Durban to Port Elizabeth or George, or George to Cape Town. A wide section of guided group tours covering variations on this route is available.

Day 1-2—Arrive Johannesburg or Pretoria. Enrich your South African experience with a quick course on the history of apartheid at Museum Africa before having a wander around the colorful Market Theatre. Alternatively, join a guided tour of Soweto or—in Pretoria—visit Paul Kruger House and the historical Melrose House, then make your way to the enormous Voortrekker Monument.

Day 3-6—Fly or drive to Kruger or one of the adjoining private reserves. Whether on a guided walk or on a wildlife drive, you'll find plenty of opportunities to spy the "Big Five" (rhino, buffalo, lion, leopard and elephant). You might also want to spend one night outside the park to enjoy the Blyde River Canyon and other local scenic attractions.

Day 7-9—Drive from Mpumalanga to Durban via the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park and the other Zululand reserves of northern KwaZulu-Natal.

Day 10—Durban. Explore the Golden Mile, take a ride on a rickshaw and then savor the spices of India at the Victoria Street Market.

Day 11-12—Drive to Port Elizabeth via East London. Either city is a great place to relax on the beach or have a quick surf, or you could divert to the Addo Elephant National Park.

Day 13-16—Follow the Garden Route toward Cape Town, stopping at (or diverting to) the likes of Jeffrey's Bay (great surfing) Tsitsikama National Park (hiking and coastal scenery), Plettenberg Bay, Knysna, George, Oudtshoorn and/or Mossel Bay.

Days 17-20—Cape Town. On your first day, if the skies are clear, head directly to the city's most famous landmark—Table Mountain. The next must-see stop is the Nelson Mandela Gateway building, where regular ferries depart for Robben Island. On the second day in Cape Town, hire a car and drive to the Cape of Good Hope, stopping en route to see the 3,000-strong penguin colony at Boulders Beach. On the third day, head up to the scenic Stellenbosch and Franschhoek Winelands, about an hour's drive inland.

Day 21—Fly home, directly from Cape Town if possible, or with a stopover in Johannesburg.

DINING

Dining Overview

South African cuisine, or more specifically, Cape cuisine, is a blend of Dutch, French, German and Malay flavors typically applied to lamb, beef or seafood. In the local restaurants, try *bredie* (braised and stewed mutton and vegetables), saltwater crayfish (like lobsters, but without the claws) and *bobotie* (a sweet curried meat dish). Other local delicacies include *biltong* (spicy strips of dried meat), *Samosa* (deep-fried pastries filled with curried vegetables or meat), *koeksisters* (syrup-soaked doughnuts), *waterblommetjies* (a nutty-tasting flower) and *stuiwe pap* or *putu* (cornmeal porridge). *Upens* (tripe) and *mopane* worms are strictly for the daring palate.

You'll find many Chinese, French, Portuguese and Indian restaurants, with the latter being especially well-represented in KwaZulu-Natal, the main stronghold of the country's million-strong Indian population. The private game reserves often serve wild game in their restaurants (gazelle and warhog are good, though the latter can be tough). But no other culinary institution is so typically South African as the *braai* (Afrikaans for "barbecue"), a social event that usually features spicy *boerewors* (literally "farmers' sausage") along with steak, chops or marinated *sosaties* (kebabs). South African wines are both excellent and inexpensive.

SECURITY

Personal Safety

South Africa's crime wave continues, though it is largely confined to large cities and is unlikely to affect travelers—particularly package groups—who stick to established tourist areas and follow a few commonsense rules. Avoid townships unless you have a local guide who knows the area well. Tourists can also be targets of street crime in the cities, primarily in Johannesburg and Durban, where muggings and armed robberies occur in the central business district even during the day. Spread your valuables in various places: Keep some with you (take a money belt) and leave some in hotel safes. But remember that no one place is really safe. Never walk alone at night and don't wear expensive jewelry visibly. Avoid driving alone, lock your car doors at all times, keep your windows up and be alert to strangers approaching your vehicle when stopping at urban and suburban intersections.

For the latest information, contact your country's travel-advisory agency.

Health

South Africa is one of the few countries in Africa where you can drink the water in major cities and eat salads or unpeeled fresh vegetables and assume proper sanitation standards are followed. Don't, however, swim in any lake or river without checking first. Many are infested with a parasite called bilharzia, which attacks the liver (there are also crocodiles in certain areas).

If you're visiting the game parks in Gauteng or Mpumalanga (including Kruger National Park) or the KwaZulu-Natal coast north of Richards Bay, consult your doctor about taking malaria suppressants.

South Africa has a very high AIDS rate among heterosexuals, and HIV is usually transmitted during the course of unprotected sex.

Take along plenty of sunscreen, insect repellent and a pair of comfortable walking shoes.

For more information, contact your country's health-advisory agency.

Dos & Don'ts

Do take an organized tour of a black township, either in Johannesburg, Cape Town or Durban. Instead of hostility, we have encountered friendliness and openness in the townships. We played soccer with children in the street while mothers called out playful greetings from their doorways.

Do try to visit a *shebeen* (bar) in one of the black townships during a tour. Under apartheid, blacks were forbidden to sell alcohol. Many risked imprisonment by running these speakeasies.

Don't become so worried about crime that you forget to enjoy the country. It's easy to fall into the habit of worrying so much that the real pleasures of the country and its inhabitants pass you by.

Do try to see a play by South African playwright Athol Fugard (*Master Harold ... and the Boys*, *A Lesson From Aloes*).

Do visit a Zulu or other ethnic village to see the incredible traditional dancing.

Don't be afraid to ask about security when making hotel reservations and when checking into your hotel. Some Johannesburg hotels now require that everyone who enters be asked for identification, including guests.

Do tour a working gold mine.

Do take, at the minimum, a 300-mm lens if you want to get great animal photos in South Africa. Also, assuming you haven't gone digital, buy plenty of high-speed film—animal photography is best at dawn and dusk. Also take a flashlight, and a pair of high-quality binoculars will come in handy—they're a must for bird-watchers.

Do plan a lengthy stay at one of the game reserves if you can afford the time. Such sights as elephants bathing, a lion at a fresh kill, a family of hyenas interacting, or antelope fighting over territory are encountered more often by the patient, unhurried visitor who has time to take everything in slowly.

Don't swim at any beach where others aren't swimming. Sharks cruise the waters, and some beaches aren't protected by shark nets.

Do try and catch South Africa's premier sports team—the Springbok rugby team—in action. Even if you don't understand the game, you'll find the atmosphere electric.

Do take a coat and tie if you are a male and expect to dine at very swanky restaurants. They may be required in the evening.

Do ask hotel staff to get you into one of the diamond-cutting works in Johannesburg.

HOTELS

Hotel Overview

Accommodations range from campsites, farmhouses, trailers, youth hostels and guesthouses to five-star resort properties and lodges. Prices are relatively low, and clean accommodations are easily found. Private game reserves along the border of Kruger National Park boast some of the poshest safari digs in all of Africa. Notable among them are facilities at Mala Mala, Sabi Sabi and Londolozi (all of which are part of the greater Sabi Sand Game Reserve). The deluxe Mount Nelson Hotel—called Nellie by locals—and Cape Grace Hotel are both Cape Town favorites.

FACTS

Geostats

Passport/Visa Requirements: All foreign nationals need a passport, valid for six months after the intended date of departure. A visa is required for citizens of Australia, Canada and the U.S. if in South Africa on a lengthy business trip. Reconfirm travel documentation requirements with your carrier before departure.

Population: 43,997,828.

Languages: Zulu, Xhosa, Afrikaans, Pedi, English, Tswana, Sotho, Tsonga, Swati, Venda, Ndebele..

Predominant Religions: Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Animist..

Time Zone: 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (+2 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is not observed.

Voltage Requirements: 220 volts.

Telephone Codes: 27, country code; 21,city code for Cape Town; 11,city code for Johannesburg; 12,city code for Pretoria;

Money

Currency Exchange

The South African rand (R) has undergone something of a roller-coaster ride against other international currencies since the 1994 election. At one point, the exchange rate dropped as low as R13 to the U.S. dollar, but it is now R6-8. Major credit cards and traveler's checks are widely accepted. In cities and large towns, ATMs are plentiful sources for obtaining local currency using any major international credit or debit card. Smaller towns and villages will often have at least one ATM, but don't count on it being in working order. For security reasons, we recommend that you only use ATMs that are *inside* a bank or other institution.

Banking Hours

Generally Monday-Friday 8:30 am-3:30 pm, Saturday 8 am-11:30 pm.

Taxes

South Africa has a value-added tax (VAT) that is included in prices marked on goods. Nonresidents can obtain a refund of the VAT on certain purchased goods. The total value of the items should exceed R250. To claim your refund at the airport, have the unused items with you in your carry-on luggage to present to the refund officer. You'll also need the original receipt, a VAT refund form and your passport.

Tipping

Tip taxi drivers about 10% and give a small tip to hotel porters. In restaurants, tip at least 10% if a service charge has not been added to the bill.

Weather

The climate is mild throughout South Africa. There's really not a bad time to visit, but October is our favorite month—it's spring then, an ideal season for touring. Snow is a possibility June-August in the mountain areas. It generally rains in the afternoon during the summer (November-February) everywhere in the country except in the Cape Province, where it rains during the winter.

Durban has a moderate climate, with swimming possible year-round. November-February is best for Cape Town. During the rest of the year, it's usually quite cool, often rainy, windy and foggy and too cold to lie on the beach. Johannesburg, at 5,700 ft/1,735 m above sea level, can be quite cool in the winter.

Those who go to South Africa specifically for animal viewing may want to go during winter (especially August-early September): Grass is short, and the animals tend to gather around watering holes.

What to Wear

Climates vary considerably by season and region, so be prepared for a wide range of conditions. In most parts of South Africa, daytime temperatures are suitable to light clothing such as shorts and a T-shirt. At night, temperatures often drop drastically, sometimes to below freezing, particularly at higher altitudes between June and August, so a couple of sweaters and a waterproof jacket are recommended. Along the eastern coastal belt, long sleeves, socks and pants help protect against mosquito bites. A hat and sunscreen help avoid sun exposure.

Communication

Telephone

Local and international calls can be made from hotels and public telephones countrywide. Some telephones take coins, some take local phone cards and some take both. Phone reception is excellent in most towns but cannot be taken for granted in rural areas and game reserves. For directory inquiries, dial 1023.

Internet Access

Internet cafes can be found in most shopping malls, and a browsing facility is generally offered at all hotels and backpacker hostels, but one should not rely on ready Internet access in game reserves and small towns. Wireless reception is very limited.

Mail & Package Services

The South African postal service is reasonably reliable, but international post in and out of the country can be very slow—typically one-two weeks to or from Europe and two-three weeks to or from North America. Items of value or that need to arrive quickly are best shipped with courier companies such as FedEx or DHL, which are widely represented locally.

Newspapers & Magazines

The most highly regarded newspaper in South Africa is probably the weekly *Mail & Guardian*, which also contains useful arts and entertainment listings for Johannesburg, Durban or Cape Town (depending on where you buy it). Good daily papers include *The Star* (Johannesburg), *The Argus* (Cape Town), *The Mercury* (Durban), *The Witness* (Pietermaritzburg) and the *Pretoria News*. National Sunday papers include the rather frivolous *Sunday Times* and somewhat more earnest *Sunday Independent*. International papers are available at some newsagents and city hotels, but generally they are a few days old.

Transportation

Air

Most international flights arrive at Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport (JNB), which is 14 mi/22 km east of Johannesburg and a 45-minute drive from Pretoria. Cape Town (CPT) and Durban (DUR) also have international airports. For details of all international airports, see <http://www.airports.co.za>.

Service within the country is provided by South African Airways (<http://www.flysaa.com>), or check smaller online operators such as <http://www.kulula.com> or <http://www.1time.co.za> for bargain tickets between major centers. Domestic flights are expensive, so if you're planning to fly among multiple destinations, look into obtaining an African Explorer pass. Charters, such as those provided by National Airways Corporation, are available to airports not served by scheduled flights.

Taxis are available at all airports.

Bus

Several companies, including Greyhound, Intercity and TransLux, provide excellent coach service between major cities and to Namibia and Zimbabwe. Also highly recommended is the Baz Bus, a hop-on, hop-off service aimed specifically at independent international travelers. It's important to remember that you *must* book rides one day in advance.

Car

The road network in South Africa is good, which makes getting around by car fairly easy. Rental cars and cars with drivers are available in the major cities. If you use an international rental agency, you'll get better rates by making reservations before you leave home. Even then, lower rates are usually available through local companies.

Taxi

Long-distance trips are possible using taxis (which are really minibuses). Because of the country's crime problems, however, we don't recommend this mode of travel.

Train

Spoornet, the country's passenger-rail service, offers extensive, inexpensive, reliable transport to all major and many smaller cities. In addition, Rovos Rail offers a number of luxurious "Orient Express"-style rail tours on refurbished passenger cars and steam engines. These unique train safaris travel through some of the most spectacular scenery in Africa. Trips include a 48-hour ride from Pretoria to Victoria Falls (on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe) and a 55-hour excursion between Pretoria and Durban that includes game drives in Kruger National Park, Mkhaya Game Reserve in Swaziland and Hluhluwe Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal. Some passengers report that the experience exceeds that of the more well-known Blue Train, which still offers its luxurious version of the glory days of rail, with year-round trips between Pretoria and Victoria Falls, Cape Town and Hoedspruit (on the edge of Kruger National Park). The Blue Train also has service between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, along the famed Garden Route. Several narrow-gauge steam trains can also be found around the country.

For More Information Tourist Offices

South Africa: South Africa Tourism Board, Private Bag X10012, Sandton, 2146. Phone 011-778-3000. Fax 011-895-3001. <http://www.southafrica.net>. There's also an office in Johannesburg International Airport.

Australia: South Africa Tourism Board, Suite 301, Level 3, 117 York St., Sydney, NSW 2000. Phone 02-9261-5000. Fax 02-9261-2000. <http://www.southafrica.net>.

U.K.: South African Tourism Board, 5 and 6 Alt Grove, Wimbledon, London SW19 4DZ. Phone 20-8971-9350. Fax 20-8944-6705. <http://www.southafrica.net>.

U.S.: South African Tourism Board, 500 Fifth Ave., Suite 2040, New York, NY 10110. Phone 212-730-2929. Fax 212-764-1980. Los Angeles office, phone 310-407-8642. <http://www.southafrica.net>.

South Africa does not maintain a tourist office in Canada.

South African Embassies

Australia: South African High Commission, Corner State Circle and Rhodes Place, Yarralumla, ACT 2600. Phone 02-6272-7300. Fax 02-6272-7364. <http://www.sahc.org.au>.

Canada: South African High Commission, 15 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON K1M 1M8. Phone 613-744-0330. Fax 613-741-1639. <http://www.southafrica-canada.ca>.

U.K.: South African High Commission, South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DP. Phone 20-7451-7299. Fax 20-7451-7283. The consular office is at 15 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DD. Phone 20-7925-8900. Fax 20-7925-8930. <http://www.southafricahouse.com>.

U.S.: Embassy of South Africa, 3051 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20016. Phone 202-232-4400. Fax 202-265-1607. <http://www.saembassy.org>.

Foreign Embassies in South Africa

Australian High Commission, 292 Orient St., Arcadia 0083, Pretoria. Phone 012-423-6000. Fax 012-342-8442. <http://www.australia.co.za>.

Canadian High Commission, 1103 Arcadia St., Hatfield 0083, Pretoria. Phone 012-422-3000. Fax 012-422-3052. <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/southafrica>.

British High Commission, 255 Hill St., Arcadia 0083, Pretoria. Phone 012-421-7500. Fax 012-421-7555. The consular office is at Liberty Life Place, 256 Glyn St., Hatfield 0083, Pretoria. Phone 012-421-7801. Fax 012-421-7877. There is a consulate in Cape Town on the 15th Floor, Southern Life Center, 8 Riebeck St. Phone 021-405-2400. Fax 021-405-2448. <http://www.britishhighcommission.gov.uk/southafrica>.

U.S. Embassy, 877 Pretorius St., Arcadia 0083, Pretoria. Phone 012-431-4000. Fax 012-342-2299. <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov.com>.

Recommended Guidebooks

Additional Reading

Beyond the Miracle: Inside the New South Africa by Allister Sparks (Jonathan Ball Publishers). Opinionated and often controversial, Sparks assesses life in South Africa since the transition from apartheid to democracy. His other titles, *The Mind of South Africa* and *Tomorrow Is Another Country* are also worth a look.

Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton (Scribner). A classic—written with simplicity and compassion that reflects the deep conflicts that existed in South Africa during the apartheid years and still linger today.

Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela (Little Brown and Co.). This autobiography covers the great statesman's life from childhood, through the antiapartheid struggle, prison, freedom and finally as the leader of a racially united country.

Story of an African Farm by Olive Schreiner (Dover Publications) is an oldie but goodie. First published in 1883 under the male pseudonym Ralph Iron, this provocative novel advocates views considered radical even by today's standards.

The Afrikaners: A Biography of a People by Hermann Giliomee (Tafelberg Publishers). This book gives a detailed history of the Afrikaner people and their political development.

A History of South Africa by Leonard Thompson (Yale University Press). This is probably the most balanced and insightful one-volume history on the market.

Country of My Skull by Antjie Krog (Three River Press). Fascinating but harrowing account of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission headed up by Bishop Desmond Tutu following the collapse of apartheid.

Kaffir Boy: An Autobiography by Mark Mathabane (Free Press). This is a candid and riveting account of growing up in 1970s South Africa, at the height of apartheid.

Any of the novels or short-story collections by South Africa's Nobel Prize-winning authors Nadine Gordimer and J.M. Coetzee, who won the Booker Prize for *Disgrace* and *The Life and Times of Michael K*.

Another recommended novelist is Andre Brink, whose books *An Instant in the Wind* and *Rumors of Rain* were both shortlisted for the Booker Prize, and whose *The Other Side of Silence* won the Commonwealth Writers Prize for the Africa Region.