



South Africa

POP 53 MILLION / 27

Includes →

Cape Town.....	898
Winelands	910
Garden Route.....	912
Durban	919
Zululand	924
Bloemfontein	928
Johannesburg.....	930
Soweto	937
Pretoria	938
Kruger National Park	943
Understand South Africa.....	947
Survival Guide.....	949

Why Go?

When Archbishop Desmond Tutu called South Africa the 'Rainbow Nation', his words described the very essence of what makes this country extraordinary. Certainly, the blend of peoples and cultures that his oft-used moniker referred to is instantly evident, but the country's diversity stretches far beyond its people.

Within South Africa's borders you can sleep under the stars in a desert or hike to snowcapped peaks. The hills of Zululand and the Wild Coast provide a bucolic antidote to the bustle of large cities like Johannesburg and Durban. Wildlife watching ranges from remote safari walks to up-close encounters with waddling penguins.

Variety continues in the cuisine, with the delicate (West Coast seafood), the hearty (Karoo meat feasts), the fragrant (Cape Malay stews) and the spicy (Durban curries) all represented. And southwest of it all sits Cape Town, where gourmands, art lovers, thrill seekers and beach babes come together to sip, surf and sunbathe in beautiful surrounds.

Best Places to Eat

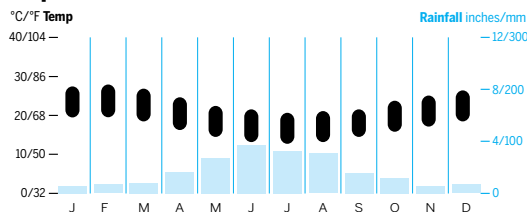
- Test Kitchen (p907)
- Great Eastern Food Bar (p931)
- Mali's Indian Restaurant (p922)
- Hog House Brewing Co (p906)

Best Places to Sleep

- Tintswalo Atlantic (p903)
- Motel Mipichi (p931)
- Hog Hollow (p913)

When to Go

Cape Town



Apr–Aug Low season; ideal wildlife-watching conditions; whales on Western Cape coast.

Sep–Nov Spring flowers bloom; ideal weather for KwaZulu-Natal beaches and Karoo exploration.

Dec–Feb Coastal accommodation fills up; busy, vibrant time to be in the Cape.



South Africa Highlights

- 1 Cape Town** (p898)
Tackling Table Mountain, paddling with penguins or just lazing on Atlantic beaches.
- 2 Kruger National Park** (p943)
Joining rangers on a safari of the most involving kind – on foot.
- 3 uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park** (p927)
Hiking past waterfalls and San rock art towards mountain peaks.
- 4 Wild Coast** (p918)
Choosing between a hammock and the beach at a laid-back hostel.