

South Africa fact sheet



Escorted tour

On the right is the itinerary for the 2010 escorted tour of South Africa departing in October 2010 and 2011. The tour lasts 33 days and takes in the best South Africa has to offer. We travel in October and November in order to benefit from favourable motorhome rental rates, the early summer climate and space available on campsites at the beginning of high season.

Motoring information

Driving Licence and International Driving Permit (IDP)

Non-residents are permitted to drive with a driving licence issued and valid in their own country, provided it bears the photograph and signature of the holder and is in English. If your driving licence does not meet these requirements, an International Driving Permit (IDP) is required.

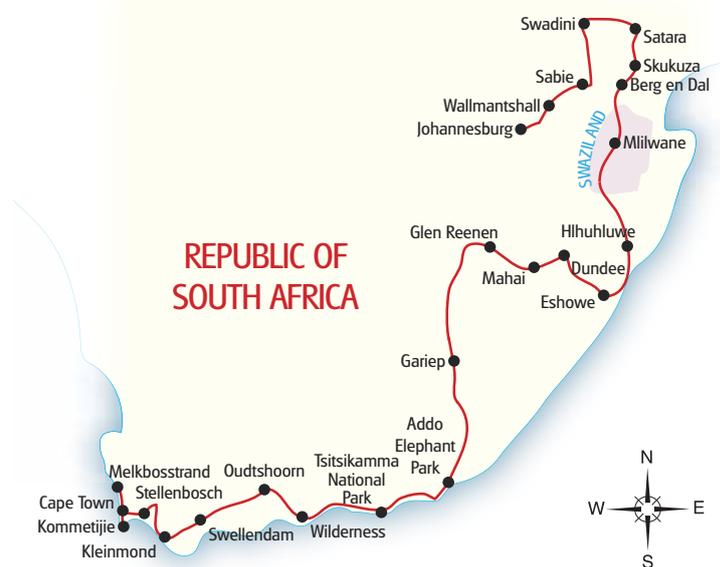
Drivers must be over 18 years old, but motorhome rental companies may have additional requirements (BoBo Campers stipulates 21 as the minimum age).

Vehicle Insurance

On individual, tailor-made holidays, vehicles from BoBo Campers are insured with a 30,000 ZAR excess. To have the vehicle fully insured, take out a CDW policy according to the BoBo Campers rates sheet (CDW3 costs 220 ZAR per day and reduces all risk to all vehicle models to nil. CDW 2 and CDW1 are lower forms of cover). An imprint of a major credit card may be required while the vehicle is rented.

Driving in South Africa

Public roads are well developed and well sign-posted, with driving on the left as in the UK. Rules of the road will be provided with your motorhome. Traffic lights in South Africa are known as robots. There are lots of speed traps, particularly when the speed limit drops. Some roads are designated toll roads (recognisable by a black T on a yellow background), so ensure that you have sufficient cash in hand. These roads are particularly prevalent between Johannesburg and the Kruger



National Park and from Johannesburg to Durban. On single-lane roads the hard shoulder is sometimes used to allow faster moving vehicles to overtake and it is usual to acknowledge this with a brief flash of hazard lights. Be careful not to go too far over as the debris at the side of the road can cause punctures. Two-, three- or four-way-stops are common at quieter junctions, where all vehicles must come to a complete stop at the sign, the first vehicle to arriving at the stop sign having priority. Expect to be hooted at if you do not take your turn. At roundabouts the rule is to give way to the right, but this is often overlooked and it is wise to proceed with caution.

Mobile phones

Using hand-held phones while driving is against the law. You should use a vehicle phone attachment or a hands-free kit, but phoning while driving is not advised.

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Drinking and driving

The legal blood alcohol limit in South Africa is 50mg per 100ml, which is 30mg lower than in the UK. The legal breath alcohol limit is 24mg per 1000ml. It is illegal to refuse to give a breath or blood sample.

Signs

All distances, speed limits and speedometers are in kilometres. Signs follow standard international symbols.

Roads

While most national roads are tarred and in good condition, the more rural the road, the more likely it is to be pot-holed and poorly surfaced. Our escorted tour does cover some well maintained gravel roads and on these it is advisable to keep your speed down and to be especially careful if travelling in wet weather.

Speed limits

General speed limits are in kilometres per hour and unless otherwise indicated are: on national highways, urban freeways and other major routes 120kph (75mph); on secondary (rural) roads 100kph (60mph); in built-up areas usually 60kph (35mph).

Filling up

Diesel costs much less than in the UK. At the time of writing, petrol costs about ZAR8.90 and diesel about ZAR9.45 (these prices are for inland areas and are usually a little lower on the coast), with prices reviewed by the government on the first Wednesday of each month. You will usually be expected to return your vehicle with a full tank of petrol unless otherwise stated by your rental company.

There are a variety of filling stations on both main and country roads. However, distances between towns (and therefore between filling stations) are considerable in some parts of the country, so it is advisable to fill up your tank before it starts giving warning signals. Most stations are open 24 hours a day, although some keep shorter hours, and most generally offer full service, rather than self-service. In the case of full service, an attendant will fill the tank, check the oil and coolant levels and the tyre pressure and, if necessary, clean the windscreen, for which he or she will expect a tip of two or three rand.

You cannot pay for fuel with a credit card (South Africans use a special fuel card). You will need to pay in cash, so it is important to make sure that you always have enough money with you for your fuel requirements. Nearly all filling stations also provide a cash machine, but it is always possible that a particular machine might not recognise your cash card.

Propane gas

Your motorhome heating and cooking facilities run off propane stored in a tank on the motorhome. You can fill up your propane tank at petrol stations (the attendants will fill it for you). A propane tank should never be more than three quarters full.

Seat belts

Seat belts, where available, must be worn at all times by drivers and passengers.

Toll roads

Many of the national roads between the major centres are toll roads. Check the toll fees before your journey, and make sure that you have adequate means of payment with you. Debit cards, plus credit cards not issued in South Africa, are not accepted for toll payment, so make sure you have enough cash with you for tolls.

Watch out for animals in rural areas

Roads in many rural areas are not fenced, so you could find dogs, chickens, sheep and even horses or cows on the road, so it may be dangerous to drive at night. Large antelope crossing the road can also be a hazard in certain areas – watch out for the road signs depicting a leaping antelope, and take it slowly, especially towards evening.



General information

Entry requirements

South Africa All visitors to South Africa must be in possession of a passport valid no less than 30 days after the intended departure date from South Africa. A visa is not required by British citizens holding a UK passport for an intended stay of 90 days or less. For more information, or if you hold any other passport, visit www.home-affairs.gov.za/visa_schedule.asp, or contact your consulate or embassy. South African authorities state that officially only one blank passport page is required for entry, but there have been reports that some South African officials insist on two blank pages. We recommend you have two blank pages.

Swaziland British passport holders do not require visas for Swaziland and will normally be given entry permission for up to thirty days, which can be extended. All Swaziland border posts open daily throughout the year but hours of operation are variable. Your passport should be valid for a minimum of six months and have several blank pages.

Lesotho British nationals can obtain entry visas for a small fee on arrival (but note that overstaying without proper authority is taken very seriously). A valid British passport should be valid for at least a further six months after departure from Lesotho and have at least two spare pages to allow the immigration authorities to affix visa stamps.

Climate

The Cape Coast enjoys a Mediterranean type climate with winter rainfall (June-August). The KwaZulu-Natal coast, Mpumalanga and Limpopo Province are subtropical. In the rest of the country temperatures are moderate, especially on the high interior plateau, with summer rainfall that often takes place in the late afternoon and as thunderstorms. These areas also generally experience rains between November and March with a peak summer rainfall in December and January. Winter is May to August and is a good time for game viewing, owing to the lower density of grasses, and the fact that less ground water concentrates animals towards water holes.

What to pack

Most of the time you'll be most comfortable in light, summer-weight clothes but do pack a warm jacket, socks, good shoes and a rain jacket. Pack sunscreen – lots of it – and a hat and sunglasses. Make sure you have at least one cool shirt with a collar for sun protection. Stock up on insect repellent and, if you'll be in a malaria area, ensure you have a cool, long-sleeved shirt and cool long trousers for the evenings. Bring good walking shoes.

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South Africa is a casual country, so when going out on the town smart casual wear is appropriate in the majority of places.

Prohibited items

There are now many rules, regulations and laws about what may and may not be included in your carry-on (cabin) baggage on airlines. In general it is safe to assume that nothing that might remotely be considered a weapon will be allowed in the cabin and that this will usually include any kind of knife or sharp implement, down to penknives, knitting needles or even tweezers.

In addition, many airlines now have stringent rules on what liquids are allowed in hand baggage and this particularly has implications for anyone carrying vital medication or those travelling with babies.

It is safest to check for details with your particular airline, both well before and just prior to travelling. (If travelling with South African Airways, please visit ww3.flysaa.com, then select At The Airport—Baggage Information—Hand Baggage.)

Electricity

The electricity supply is 220-230 volts AC 50 HZ. Most plugs are of the 15A and three round pins type (or sometimes 5A and two round pins). Adaptors are best bought in advance of your trip.

Money

South Africa's unit of currency is the Rand, which is divided into 100 cents. Bank notes are in denominations of ZAR10, 20, 50, 100 and 200; coins are in the value of 5c, 10c, 50c and ZAR1, 2 and 5. As of 18 January 2010 there are ZAR12.35 to the Pound; the 12-month average to this date was ZAR13.29, the high was ZAR15.23 and the low was ZAR11.88 (source: www.oanda.com/currency/historical-rates). Currency can be bought in advance from your bank or from bureaux de change. Most major international credit cards such as MasterCard, Visa and American Express are widely accepted (but not for fuel or tolls) and you can withdraw cash from cash machines in South Africa, as long as you have your PIN number. Check with your bank regarding charges. Banks are generally open from 0900 to 1530 Mondays to Fridays, and from 0830 to 1100 on Saturdays. ATMs (cash machines) are situated outside most banks, in shopping malls and at most filling stations.

Foreign tourists can have their VAT (value-added tax, at 14%) refunded at the point of departure, provided they present their original tax invoices that should have been requested from vendors when purchasing.

Telephone and postage

South Africa's international country code is 27. To call the UK from South Africa, dial 00 followed by the UK's code (44), and then the full UK STD number minus the leading zero. Public telephones are either coin- or card-operated. Phone cards can be purchased at certain stores, post offices and airports.

Post offices are generally open Monday to Friday from 0830 to 1630 and on Saturdays from 0800 to 1200.

Time zone

South Africa is two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time throughout the year, so it is two hours ahead of UK time during the UK winter and one hour ahead during the UK summer.

Health

A large network of hospitals offers excellent service, but make sure you have adequate health insurance, including cover for medical evacuation. A full and comprehensive medical and personal holiday cover with Europ Assistance is available through Carefree Travel Service.

It is generally advised that you should not swim in rivers in the eastern and northern regions, as the **bilharzia** parasite is found in these areas.

Malaria is endemic in the Lowveld areas of South Africa (parts of Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal). Prevention is the key and the most crucial elements of this are covering up and using insect repellent. Pack light clothes with long sleeves and long legs and once on the tour use any window and door screens with which your motorhome is equipped, or sleep under a mosquito net. When using insect repellent, be careful to re-apply it as directed by the medical notes accompanying the treatment you choose.

Do not leave your motorhome's outside light on for long periods, as this will attract insects. Burning citronella candles can help to keep them away. Mosquitoes appear mainly in the evening.

You may also wish to take prophylactic drugs as a precaution against malaria. If so, consult your doctor well in advance, as you may need to begin any such medication some time before departure. Be sure to ask your doctor about any possible side effects. Seek medical advice before travelling and ensure that all appropriate vaccinations are up to date.

NHS Direct (0845 46 47) can also provide you with advice on any vaccination requirements for South Africa.

The Sun

Do wear sunscreen and a hat whenever you are out of doors during the day, particularly between 1000 and 1600, regardless of whether there is cloud cover or not. Sunglasses are also recommended wear, as the glare of the African sun can be strong.

Water

High-quality tap water is available almost everywhere in South Africa. In some areas, the water is mineral-rich, and you may experience a little gastric distress for a day or two until you get used to it. Bottled mineral water, both sparkling and still, is readily available in most places.

Smoking

Law prohibits smoking in most public spaces, including airports and railway stations. Most restaurants have designated smoking and non-smoking areas.



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Safety

Most parts of the country can be safely visited by tourists, provided they take basic common-sense precautions, e.g. not walking alone in deserted areas at night, not exhibiting photographic equipment or jewellery or large amounts of cash and, in traffic, maintaining a safe following distance. In large towns, lock your car doors when driving and ensure that your windows are up as some petty crime does take place at traffic lights.

Do not leave personal items and baggage on the seats. Do plan your route in advance, use maps and park in well-lit areas. Picking up of hitchhikers is not recommended. As in the rest of the world, South Africa has its share of criminals, so take the basic common-sense precautions.

If you are in doubt as to the safety of a particular area or attraction, contact the National Tourism Information and Safety Line on 083 123 2345. This number may also be used for assistance in replacing lost documents or reporting incidents. Alternatively, phone to ask a police station on 10111, to ask for advice.

Shopping

Modern shopping malls, arts and crafts routes and markets, flea markets, roadside stalls and informal vendors provide a wide variety of goods, curios and shopping experiences. South Africa's fashion, gold and diamond jewellery, and art are much sought-after, as are the traditional handcrafted items such as Zulu beadwork, carved chessboards, painted ostrich eggs, colourful woven baskets, handbags and soft furnishings, mohair or sisal rugs, traditional wooden masks and carvings, pottery and leatherwork. Remember too the world-renowned Cape wines, exotic fruit liqueurs, brandy, *rooibos* (redbush) tea, dried fruit, biltong (dried meat snacks) and chutney. Most major shopping centres are open Monday to Friday from 0900 to 1700 and on Saturdays until 1300. Many shopping malls operate extended shopping hours including Sundays and public holidays.

Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory in South Africa but is appreciated as recognition of good service. It is usual to tip waiting staff 10-15 per cent of the bill, taxi drivers 10 per cent of the fare and porters ZAR500 per item. It is also commonplace to tip your ranger and tracker on game drives (about ZAR50-ZAR75 per day is average). At service stations, pump attendants will fill your tank for you and will offer to wash your windscreen – a tip of whatever small change you have available is appreciated (typically two or three rand). In many areas parking attendants will offer to assist you in parking your vehicle and watching over it while you are away – again, a tip of two rand or so is appreciated. News vendors should be tipped a few cents, perhaps rounding off the newspaper price. You may also wish to tip tour guides, hairdressers, people helping to carry your shopping, or others.

Bringing goods into the UK

You are entitled to the allowances shown below:

- 200 cigarettes; or 100 cigarillos; or 50 cigars; or 250g of tobacco; or the same proportion of more than one of these (e.g. 100 cigarettes plus 25 cigars).
- 60cc of perfume
- 2 litres of still table wine
- 250cc of eau de toilette
- 1 litre of spirits or strong liqueurs over 22 per cent volume; or 2 litres of fortified wine such as port or sherry, sparkling wine or other liqueurs under 22 per cent volume
- 16 litres of beer *and* 4 litres of wine
- £390 worth of all other goods including perfume and souvenirs.

If you want to bring back more, you will have to declare it to customs on your way back and pay Customs duty and VAT. For more information, visit www.hmrc.gov.uk/customs/arriving/index.htm and select "Bringing goods to the UK from outside the EU".

What to expect abroad

- If you are used to staying on Club sites you may find camp sites abroad quite different. Facilities and pitches vary from site to site and from country to country. In particular, you should note that there is no six metre rule.
- With regard to everyday life and public services, South Africa enjoys world-class transport infrastructure, telecommunications, banking, medical and tourism facilities.

Before you travel, be sure to make **photocopies** of all the documents you are taking with you – including your **passport, driving licence** and insurance documents – take one set with you and **keep** in a **separate place** from the originals and leave one set at home with someone who can send them to you if needed.



Tourist information

UK South African Tourism

6 Alt Grove, London SW19 4DZ
 Postal address: PO Box 49110, Wimbledon, SW19 4XZ
 Information/brochure line: 0870 155 0044
 Tel: 020 8971 9350
 Fax: 020 8944 6705
 E-mail: info.uk@southafrica.net
 Website: www.southafrica.net

Tourist information will be supplied with your travel pack before departure.

British High Commission in Pretoria

Consular Section

Liberty Life Place, Block B, 1st Floor 256, Glyn Street, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0083
 Postal Address: PO Box 13611 or 13612, Hatfield, 0028
 Telephone (local time) (00 27) (12) 421 7800
 Mon-Thu: 0800-1315; Fri: 0800-1200
 Web: www.britain.org.za/
 Consular Assistance team in London (24 hours a day): 020 7008 1500;
 +44 20 7008 1500 from abroad

Passport Section

Mon-Thu: 0800-1315
 Fri: 0800-1200
 Tel: (27) (12) 421 7801
 Fax: (27) (12) 421 7877
 E-mail: ukpassportservicesouthafrica@careline-services.co.uk
 Website: http://ukinsouthafrica.fco.gov.uk/en/passports/southafricappt/

British Consulate-General, Cape Town

15th Floor, Southern Life Centre, 8 Riebeeck Street, Cape Town 8001
 Postal Address: British Consulate-General, PO Box 500, Cape Town 8000

Switchboard/Consular/Passport Enquiries

Tel : (00 27) 21 405 2400
 Fax: (00 27) 21 405 2447
 E-mail: Consular.SectionCT@fco.gov.uk
 Consular queries(GMT): Monday-Thursday 0700-1230; Friday 0700-1000

Please note that only emergency passports can be issued in Cape Town. All other passport enquiries should be directed to Consular Section of the British High Commission in Pretoria.

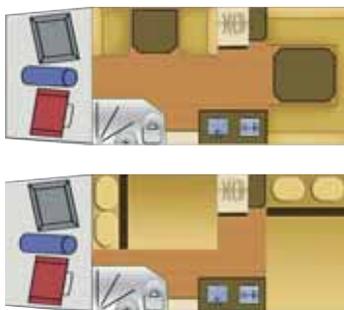
This fact sheet was last updated in January 2010.

Motorhomes and Floor Plans

Bobo 4-berth



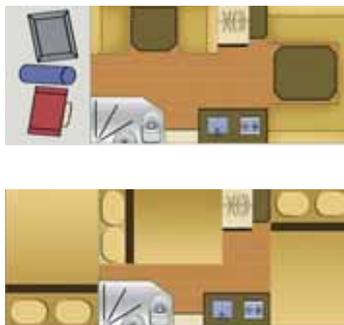
Bobo 4-berth day and night floor plans



Bobo 6-berth



Bobo 6-berth day and night floor plans



	Discoverer 4-berth	Discoverer 6-berth
Transmission	Manual or Auto	Manual or Auto
Petrol(P)/Diesel(D)	D	D
Fuel Consumption per 100km (litres)	14	14
Power steering	Y	Y
Air conditioning	Y	Y
Flyscreens	Y	Y
Sleeps	4	6
Double Bed	2.01m x 1.30m	2.05m x 1.35m
Overall length	6.80m	6.70m
Overall width	2.17m	2.17m
Overall Height	2.78m	3.00m
Kitchen Kit	Y	Y
Personal Kit	Y	Y

Carefree Travel Service, The Camping and Caravanning Club, PO Box 309, Coventry CV4 8YT

To book call **0845 130 7701**

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