

Tips for staying safe on your travels

Welcome to South Africa! Be prepared and stay assured of an enjoyable visit with these safety tips:

Plan ahead:

- Stay connected by getting a local SIM card.
- Plan your route before leaving.
- Familiarise yourself with South Africa's road rules.
- Make sure you have adequate insurance.
- Fill up your tank – South Africa is vast!

On the road:

- Use main routes, do not follow navigation apps directing you to side roads and shortcuts.
- Do not drive in remote areas.
- Drive with your car doors and boot locked and the windows up, especially when stopping at traffic lights.
- Watch out for potholes, pedestrians, and animals.
- Avoid driving at night but if it can't be helped, inform your accommodation/destination of your route and ETA.
- If you encounter an obstruction **in** the road, drive safely around it.
- Should something be amiss on your car, pull into the nearest petrol station or police station to inspect it.
- Do not engage with aggressive road users.
- Do not pick up hitchhikers or stop for strangers.

Dealing with law enforcement:

- Be cooperative.
- Ask for a written fine for alleged violations.
- Never pay cash to officers – that's a bribe. Fines must be paid at police stations or magistrate's courts only.
- If a bribe is extracted from you, note the officer's details and report the incident on the Tourism Helpline number below.

General safety:

- Park in a safe, busy, well-lit area.
- Keep valuables out of sight in your vehicle.
- Don't walk alone or at night.
- Conceal expensive items.

National Tourism Hotline:

+27 (0) 83 318 2475