

South Africa: General Information:

Travelling

South Africa is easily accessible from most of the World's major cities. By air, travelling to either of the country's two major airports takes about 11 hours from most European cities and 18 hours from the US East Coast and Canada. Time in South Africa is 2 hours ahead of GMT and does not make use of daylight saving. South Africa has 11 official languages, although English is the most common language and is the language in which most business is conducted.

Business Visas

Most personnel entering South Africa to perform duties behind or in front of the camera require an endorsed visitor's visa. Providing you have a letter of invitation from Enigma Pictures to present, if requested, on your arrival, the visa will be issued at the airport. Passports must be valid for at least 30 days after the departure date and must have two totally blank pages for anyone intending to visit South Africa. There are still a few countries whose citizens will have to apply for a visa at their nearest South African Consulate. It is always safer to double check what your visa requirements are with the nearest South African consulate or Embassy.

Accommodation

All major South African cities have a complement of good internationally recognised hotels, high quality guesthouses, furnished apartments and houses for short-term accommodation. It is best to allow Enigma Pictures to take care of these bookings as we receive superior discounted rates at most of these establishments and hotels.

Transport

In South Africa we drive on the left side of the road. International drivers licenses are required by international drivers and because Enigma Pictures arranges independent fleet insurance, drivers under twenty three can still be covered. International rental companies such as Avis and Budget are represented in South Africa as well as a number of smaller independent companies, who also offer good reliable service. 4x4 vehicles are recommended to facilitate easy travel through some of our country's more difficult terrain. A number of companies provide rigged trucking for the various departments. Enigma Pictures has a pre-negotiated annual base rate with most vehicle rental companies but we still negotiate on a film to film basis to achieve the best possible rate for all our vehicle requirements on our projects.

Banks

Banks in South Africa are generally open from 09h00 to 15h30 on weekdays and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays. All Bureau de Changes and most banks will change traveller's cheques in major currencies, but commissions differ greatly one to the other. All major South African banks have links to international financial institutions to facilitate the transfer of foreign exchange into and out of South Africa. Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Diners Club are accepted by most businesses in South Africa. Most South African ATM machines support cards that bear the Cirrus or Maestro logo.

Communication and IT

South Africa has a well-developed infrastructure with modern facilities and services available in all major centers. Comprehensive communications for remote production offices throughout most of the African continent can easily be arranged by making use of fixed line, cellular networks, satellite and ADSL for internet bandwidth access. South Africa's telephone system is the most modern and best developed system in Africa. 3G and HSDPA wireless internet is now also available in most parts of the country for portable internet access as well as on set requirements. Internet services are available to upload dailies at rates comparable to freighting without but the wait. Some hotels have free internet access in their rooms but this is not a standard feature in all hotels yet. The cellular phone system in South Africa is dual band GSM with superb network quality and ever-spreading coverage. Cellular phones can be hired on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

Dialing codes

The international dialling code for South Africa is +27, the *area code (less the (0)) then the relevant number. To call internationally from within South Africa one dials 00 + country code followed by the relevant number.

Main area codes are:

Johannesburg - (0)11

Cape Town - (0)21

Durban - (0)31

Pretoria - (0)12

Electricity

International adapter plugs can be purchased locally for computers and other electrical appliances. It is advised to ensure that the appliance is compatible with the South African supply which is 220 volts.

Health and Medical Services

Visitors to South Africa are advised to be aware of the infamous African sun and are advised to make use of suitable hats and sun creams. While there are currently no obligatory vaccinations required for travel to South Africa, it is recommended that you check with your medical advisory service prior to travelling to South Africa. Some areas of South Africa are affected by Bilharzia and Malaria and Enigma Pictures will advise you of all health risks and any additional precautions required in the area of the final location. Medical services in South Africa are generally good in urban areas and in the vicinity of popular tourist destinations but are limited in some parts of the country.

Water

While bottled water is becoming more common and is readily available throughout South Africa the tap water is safe to drink.

Security

Most visitors to the country enjoy the experience and diversities it offers in a safe environment, however as in most international cities visitors are advised to take precautions by keeping the doors locked while driving, keeping possessions out of sight and to stay alert and watchful for any suspicious activities or strange behaviour.

Insurance

Enigma Pictures includes vehicle, public liability, employers liability, office equipment, cash in transit, stunts & special effects, crew and cast personal accident cover and comprehensive equipment insurance all of which are detailed in the budget.

FPI, E&O and a completion bond can all be secured from South Africa if and when required.