



IEEE PES & IAS

**POWER AFRICA
CONFERENCE**



2024



**IEEE PES/IAS POWER AFRICA
CONFERENCE TRAVEL
ADVISORY**

1. DESTINATION DESCRIPTION

South Africa, often referred to as the "Rainbow Nation", is known for its rich cultural diversity, stunning landscapes, and vibrant cities. South Africa is situated at the southernmost part of the African continent and boasts an incredible variety of experiences. With its warm hospitality, engaging history and modern infrastructure, South Africa has become a hub for many cultural, economic, academic and technological exchanges through a plethora of global events each year. The country is well known for hosting several global and continental events including the 2023 World Science Forum (WSF). South Africa is Africa's leading business destination as well as the International Congress and Convention Associations' (ICCA) number-one convention destination in Africa and the Middle East.

Johannesburg: located in the northeastern part of South Africa lies the largest city in South Africa known for its vibrancy and cultural diversity. The city is rich in history, offering visitors a glimpse into South Africa's past with landmarks such as the Apartheid Museum and Constitution Hill. As the economic hub of the country, it boasts of hosting numerous strategic global and continental events including the BRICS Summit and the African Growth and Opportunity (AGO) forum.

We hope you enjoy your stay and experience all that South Africa has to offer. Welcome to the Rainbow Nation!



SOUTH AFRICA IN BRIEF

- **People:** A population of 55 million people of diverse cultures, languages and religions.
 - **Language:** Diversity of 11 official languages (Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho, Sepedi, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda, and Xitsonga) -English is widely spoken and used for information/signage.
 - **Time Zone:** Time zone in South Africa (GMT+2)
 - **Currency:** The Rand is the official currency in South Africa (Most major Credit Cards are accepted in South Africa)
 - **Landscape:** 9 Provinces and 3 Capital Cities.
 - **Health:** Well-developed health system, Most of South is Malaria free. Yellow fever required from yellow fever risk countries.
 - **Facilities:** Universal Access, High Speed Mobile Internet and Wi-Fi in hotels, restaurants, shopping centers and public areas.
 - **Weather:** Spring: September-November (ave. min 15° max 28°), Summer: December-February (ave. min 15° max 36°), Autumn: March-May (ave. min 19° max 28°), Winter: June-August (ave. min 0° max 26°)
 - **Transport:** 3 major Airports, Buses, E-hailing services, Railways.
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2. TRAVEL TO JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

AIRPORT:

O.R. Tambo International Airport (JNB).

VISA REQUIREMENTS:

Please check the visa requirements specific to your country. Ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your planned departure date.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:

Vaccinations: Confirm necessary vaccinations, such as yellow fever if traveling from an endemic area.

TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT:

- **e-hailing services** such as Uber and Bolt are widely available and reliable in the airport and around the city.
 - **Taxis and shuttle buses** are available from the airport.
 - There are numerous **car rental agencies** available at the airport and within the city.
 - Driving is on the **left-hand side** of the road.
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3. SAFETY AND SECURITY

SAFETY TIPS:

- When seeking directions, proceed to marked information counters only.
 - Report any suspicious, unattended luggage or parcels to the personnel at reception.
 - Store valuables in the safety deposit box.
 - Keep your room locked.
 - Avoid ostentatious display of expensive jewellery, cameras, mobile phones and other valuables.
 - Keep your handbag with you, keep it closed or zipped, and do not leave it unattended.
 - Keep your mobile phone with you and do not leave it unattended.
 - Do not carry large sums of money with you.
 - Exchange your currency at a bank or at the hotel – never exchange it on the street.
 - Carry your wallet in an inside pocket – never in the rear pocket of your trousers.
 - Credit card transactions must be processed in your presence.
 - At night, stay away from dark, isolated areas.
 - It is always better to explore in groups and to stick to well-lit, busy streets.
 - A police officer or traffic officer will be happy to direct you if you get lost.
 - Should you want to call a taxi, your hotel can recommend a reliable service.
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EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Nationwide Emergency Response (Police): 10111
- Nationwide Emergency Response (Ambulance): 10177
- Cell Phone Emergency: 112 (MTN, Vodacom, Cell C and Telkom)
- City of Johannesburg Emergency Connect: 011 37 55 911 - A 24-hour emergency services relating to all-life threatening situations
- What to do in an emergency:
 1. Contact the emergency number.
 2. Try to remain calm. Identify the emergency motor accident, building fire, heart attack and so on. Give your name and contact details.
 3. State the nature of the incident and indicate the number of people involved.
 4. Give the physical address and nearest corner or landmark.
 5. Remain on the line as long as possible to answer the operator's questions.

4. ACCOMMODATION

- Delegates who will be staying in other hotels apart from the recommended official hotels listed on the website (link to be added later), will have to cater for their own transportation to and from the event venue, however we will provide the necessary assistance.
- Some hotels offer airport transfer services. Check with your hotel for availability and booking procedures.
- It is recommended to book your accommodation well in advance to secure the best rates and availability.

5. OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

PLASTIC BAGS

South Africa has implemented a plastic bag levy. Most retailers charge for plastic bags, encouraging the use of reusable bags. Bringing reusable bags can help reduce plastic waste and support environmental conservation efforts.

PHARMACY SERVICES

Pharmacies are widely available in Johannesburg. Most pharmacies offer prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs, health and wellness products, and basic medical advice. Some also provide clinic services, including vaccinations and health screenings. Many are open from early morning to late evening, with some 24-hour locations available especially those based in private hospitals.

BANKS

Standard Bank, Absa, First National Bank (FNB), Nedbank, and Capitec are the main banks in Johannesburg.

ATMs are widely available and offer services such as cash withdrawal, balance inquiries, and fund transfers. Branches provide more comprehensive services like foreign exchange.

The local currency is the South African Rand (ZAR). Credit and debit cards are widely accepted, but it's good to have some cash for small vendors or markets.

WEATHER

Johannesburg has a subtropical highland climate. The conference will be held in Spring. October in Johannesburg marks the beginning of the rainy season. The weather is generally warm with occasional thunderstorms.

- Temperatures can drop in the evening, so pack a light jacket, cardigan, or sweater.
- Raincoat or Waterproof Jacket: Essential for sudden thunderstorms.
- Compact Umbrella: Handy for unexpected rain.

Temperatures

- Average High: 24°C to 26°C (75°F to 79°F)
- Average Low: 11°C to 14°C (52°F to 57°F)

Rainfall

- Rainy Days: October typically sees an increase in rainfall, with an average of 10-12 rainy days.
- Precipitation: Expect around 60-80mm of rainfall during the month.

Sunshine

- Daylight Hours: Approximately 11 to 12 hours of daylight.
- Sunshine Hours: Generally, 7 to 8 hours of sunshine per day.

Humidity

- Average Humidity: Around 60-70%, which can make the weather feel slightly warmer.
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CONNECTIVITY

Wi-Fi is widely available in hotels, restaurants, and cafes. Mobile data coverage is extensive, with providers like Vodacom, MTN, Cell C, and Telkom offering various prepaid and postpaid plans.

SIM Cards are easily obtainable at airports, malls, and retail stores. A passport is required for registration.

South Africa uses a unique plug type (Type M), so a travel adapter may be necessary.

DINING AND SHOPPING

Johannesburg offers a diverse culinary scene, including traditional South African dishes, international cuisine, and street food. Restaurants range from high-end establishments to casual eateries and food markets. Popular areas include Maboneng Precinct, Melville, and Sandton.

Malls are plentiful, with Sandton City, Fourways Mall, Mall of Africa, and Rosebank Mall being some of the largest. Shopping centres. Markets offer unique local crafts, food, and clothing.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

- **Apartheid Museum:** Offers a profound insight into South Africa's history of apartheid.
 - **Constitution Hill:** A historical site and museum that explores South Africa's journey to democracy.
 - **Gold Reef City:** An amusement park and historical site centred around Johannesburg's gold mining history.
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- **Soweto:** A township with rich cultural history, including Nelson Mandela's former home and the Hector Pieterse Museum.
- **Cradle of Humankind:** A UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its fossil sites and caves.
- **Wits Art Museum:** Located at the University of the Witwatersrand, it houses an impressive collection of African art.
- **Johannesburg Art Gallery:** Offers a range of contemporary and traditional African artworks.
- **Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden:** Located in Roodepoort, it features picturesque waterfalls and diverse plant species.
- **Sci-Bono Discovery Centre:** An interactive science and technology museum in Newtown, perfect for those interested in hands-on learning and innovation.
- **Johannesburg Planetarium:** Located at Wits University, it offers shows and exhibits about astronomy and space exploration.

USEFUL LINKS

- [Johannesburg Tourism](#)
 - [Apartheid Museum](#)
 - [Gautrain](#) (Public transport service)
 - [South African Weather Service](#)
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