TOURISM THAT CARES COLLECTION

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Important Before You Travel Document

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Travelling With Children Under 18 Years of Age

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Important Before You Travel Document

> Please read this entire document as soon as you receive it. Visa, passport, health and other travel requirements can take time to arrange, so please do not leave this until the last minute. It is your responsibility to read, understand and action all the requirements below before you depart. A few minutes now can save you last-minute stress, delays and unnecessary costs.

1. Passports

Your passport must meet the following requirements, or you may be refused boarding or entry:

- **Validity:** at least 6 months beyond your date of entry for every country you visit. South Africa officially requires 30 days beyond your date of exit, but some officials still ask for 6 months, therefore our recommendation is 6 months.
- **Blank pages:** at least 2 blank pages per country you visit. Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe require 3 blank pages.
- **Condition:** passports that are damaged or have pages missing may be refused.

Source: GOV.UK – South Africa entry requirements

2. Visas and Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETA)

Requirements depend on your nationality. Use the official links below and confirm with your travel consultant at least 30 days before you travel. Where a visa or authorisation is paid on arrival, please carry **US dollars in cash** (small, clean notes printed after 2013).

Country	What you may need	Apply before travel?
South Africa	• Visa-exempt for most; ETA for some nationalities - *China, India, Indonesia, and Mexico*. • All nationalities to complete SARS Traveller Declaration	• Only if ETA applies. • Yes (SARS Travel Declaration).
Botswana	Visa-exempt for most.	Only if a visa applies.
Namibia	Visa on arrival or online.	Optional. Recommended to obtain eVisa.
Zimbabwe	Visa on arrival or online (KAZA Univisa).	Optional. Recommended to obtain eVisa.

Country	What you may need	Apply before travel?
Zambia	Visa-exempt for many; otherwise, Visa on arrival or online (KAZA Univisa).	Optional. Recommended to obtain KAZA Univisa online if travelling between Zambia and Zimbabwe.
Mozambique	Visa-exempt for many; ETA is required.	Yes (ETA, 48 hours).
Kenya	ETA is required and mandatory travel insurance.	Yes (ETA, 36 hours).
Tanzania and Zanzibar	Visa and mandatory inbound insurance.	Yes.
Rwanda	Visa on arrival or online.	Optional. Recommended to obtain eVisa.
Uganda	eVisa or East Africa Tourist Visa.	Yes (no visa on arrival).
Mauritius	Visa-exempt for most; All-in-One Travel Form to be completed before arrival.	Yes (form).
Seychelles	ETA is required.	Yes (ETA, 30 days)

2.1 South Africa

Most nationalities do not need a visa for stays of up to 90 days.
Check the official list: Home Affairs – visa-exempt countries

Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)
South Africa is rolling out an ETA for travellers who would otherwise need a visa. At the time of writing, the official portal lists nationals of China, India, Indonesia and Mexico. **Check whether it applies to you:** South Africa ETA portal

To apply, you will need:

- An account registered with a valid email address and passport number.
- A scan of your passport, valid for at least 6 months.
- A live selfie, matched to your passport photo.
- Your trip details and the purpose of your visit.

Traveller Declaration (SARS)
The South African Revenue Service runs an online traveller declaration for goods and cash you bring into or take out of the country. It is mandatory to complete. Completing it in advance can speed up your arrival: SARS Traveller Declaration

2.2 Botswana

Most travellers, including UK, US, Canadian, Australian and most Commonwealth and EU passport holders, do not need a visa for stays of up to 90 days. This also applies to day trips from Zambia or Zimbabwe, including visits to Chobe National Park.

Check whether you need a visa: Botswana eVisa

2.3 Namibia

Since 1 April 2025, many nationalities, including UK, US, German and other EU passport holders, need a visa. Eligible travellers can buy a visa on arrival, but we strongly recommend applying online before travel to avoid queues.

- **Visa fee:** N$1,600 for adults and children over 11, N$800 for children aged 6 to 11, free for children under 6 years.
- **Passport:** valid for at least 6 months with 3 blank pages.
- **eVisa:** print your approved eVisa and present it on arrival.

Links: Namibia online visa application | Visit Namibia – visa information

Please have the following ready on arrival:

- Printed eVisa, if applied for online.
- Return or onward flight ticket.
- Proof of accommodation and a copy of your itinerary.
- Proof of travel or medical insurance.
- Proof of sufficient funds for your stay.
- Yellow fever certificate, if applicable.
- Documents for children, if applicable (see the children section).

2.4 Zimbabwe

Requirements depend on nationality. Eligible travellers can buy a visa on arrival (about US$50 to US$80 per person, payable in **cash**) or apply for an eVisa before travel. Travellers from Category C countries must get a visa before travelling. If you apply online, allow at least 3 weeks.

Check your requirements: Zimbabwe eVisa

2.5 Zambia

Since 2023 and 2025, Zambia has waived visas for many nationalities, including UK, US, Canadian, Australian and most EU passport holders, for stays of up to 90 days. Other travellers can buy a visa on arrival or apply for an eVisa before travel.

Check your requirements: Zambia eVisa

2.6 KAZA Univisa (Zimbabwe and Zambia)

If you need a visa for Zimbabwe and are also visiting Zambia, the KAZA Univisa is a convenient option. It costs **US$50 to US$80 per person**, allows multiple entries between Zimbabwe and Zambia for up to 30 days, and includes day trips into Botswana through Kazungula. It is available online or on arrival (payable in **cash**) at:

- **Zambia:** Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (Lusaka), Harry Mwanga Nkumbula International Airport (Livingstone), Victoria Falls border and Kazungula border.
- **Zimbabwe:** Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport (Harare), Victoria Falls International Airport, Victoria Falls border and Kazungula border.

2.7 Mozambique

Since May 2023, nationals of 29 countries, including the UK, USA, Canada and most of Western Europe, can visit visa-free for up to 30 days. Visa-exempt travellers should still register for an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) at least 48 hours before travel. Other nationalities should apply for an eVisa in advance.
Links: Mozambique eVisa and ETA portal | Club of Mozambique – visa waiver for 29 countries

2.8 Kenya

Kenya no longer issues visas to most visitors. Instead, every traveller, including infants and children, needs an approved Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) before departure.

- **Cost:** about US$30 per person, non-refundable and valid for a single entry.
- **When to apply:** up to 3 months before travel.
- **Children:** a parent or guardian completes the application for each child.
- **Re-entry:** short trips to Tanzania, Uganda or Rwanda and back do not need a new ETA.

Apply only on the official site; third-party sites charge extra: Kenya ETA

Mandatory Travel Insurance for Kenya
Since 30 July 2026, all visitors staying less than 12 months must hold travel insurance with total cover of at least US$50,000, including:

- Medical expenses: US$20,000
- Emergency medical transportation: US$25,000
- Repatriation of mortal remains: US$5,000
- Mental illness: US$1,000
- Prescribed medicines: US$300

Proof of cover will be uploaded as part of the ETA application. If you arrive without suitable cover, you can buy a policy on arrival from an approved provider.

2.9 Tanzania and Zanzibar

Most nationalities need a visa. We strongly recommend applying online before travel, as the queues for visas on arrival are long. Every passport holder, including each child, needs their own application.

Apply here: Tanzania eVisa | Tanzania immigration e-services

Mandatory Inbound Travel Insurance
From 1 October 2026, all visitors to Mainland Tanzania, by air, land or sea, must hold government-mandated NIC Inbound Travel Insurance. Zanzibar has required its own ZIC Inbound Travel Insurance since 2024. This is required even if you already have your own travel insurance, and you may be refused entry without it.

- **Cost (NIC):** US$44 per adult, US$22 per child aged 3 to 17; children under 3 are exempt.
- **Cover:** emergency medical treatment, evacuation, repatriation and lost baggage, for up to 92 days with multiple entries.
- **One policy only:** buy the policy for your first point of entry. NIC (Mainland first) or ZIC (Zanzibar first) covers you for both.
- **Exempt:** citizens and residents of East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries.

  Buy online before arrival: NIC Inbound Travel Insurance | ZIC Inbound Travel Insurance (Zanzibar)

2.10 Rwanda

All nationalities can get a visa on arrival. Citizens of Commonwealth, African Union and Francophonie countries receive a free 30-day visa. Other nationalities pay a fee, which you can pay online before travel.

Check your requirements: Rwanda Directorate of Immigration – visa on arrival

2.11 Uganda

Most nationalities need a visa, which must be applied for online **before** travel. Visas are not issued on arrival. Print your approval letter and take it with you.

Apply here: Uganda eVisa

2.12 East Africa Tourist Visa (Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda)

If you are visiting Uganda and Rwanda, and travelling between them and Kenya, the East Africa Tourist Visa may suit you. It costs **US$100 per person**, is valid for 90 days and allows multiple entries between Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. Apply online before travel through the immigration portal of the first country you will enter. It does not cover Tanzania.

2.13 Mauritius

Most nationalities, including UK, US, EU do not need a visa for a holiday. You need a return ticket, proof of accommodation and a passport valid for your stay. All travellers must complete the *Mauritius All-in-One Travel Form* online before arrival.

Complete the form here: Mauritius All-in-One Travel Form

2.14 Seychelles

No visa is required, but every traveller, including children, must apply for a Travel Authorisation before arrival (about €10.90 per person). You can apply up to 30 days before travel. You will need your passport, a selfie, flight details and confirmed accommodation for every stay.

Apply only on the official site: Seychelles Travel Authorisation

3. Health

Health requirements can change at short notice. Please check the latest requirements at least 30 days before departure and visit a travel clinic at least 6 to 8 weeks before you travel. Also check your home country's re-entry requirements.

Country-by-country health advice: TravelHealthPro | CDC Travelers' Health

3.1 Malaria

The following are malaria areas:

- Botswana: northern regions, including the **Okavango Delta** and **Chobe**.
- **Kenya**, **Malawi**, **Mozambique**, **Rwanda**, **Tanzania**, **Uganda**, **Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**.
- **Namibia**: mainly the north, including **Etosha**, the **Zambezi Region** (Caprivi) and **Kavango**.
- **South Africa**: the **Kruger National Park** and parts of Limpopo, Mpumalanga and northern KwaZulu-Natal. The risk is low in winter (June to September) and higher from October to May.

Mauritius and Seychelles are malaria-free.

Malaria Medication

Your doctor or travel clinic will recommend the right medication for you, taking into account your health and any other medication you take. Atovaquone-proguanil (sold as Malarone® or Malanil®) is commonly prescribed and usually has few side effects. No medication is 100% effective, so also avoid bites (see below).

Herbal products such as Artemisia are not proven to prevent malaria and are not recommended by the World Health Organization.

Avoiding Bites and Feeling Well

- Use insect repellent, especially from dusk to dawn.
- Wear long sleeves and trousers in the evening.
- Sleep under a mosquito net where one is provided.
- Drink plenty of water and take your medication with food to reduce nausea.
- If you take probiotics, ask your pharmacist how to time them with your medication.
- If you develop a fever during or up to a year after your trip, see a doctor immediately and mention your travel.

3.2 Yellow Fever

- **Uganda:** a yellow fever certificate is required for all travellers aged 1 and older.
- **Kenya and Uganda:** are yellow fever risk countries. If you travel from Kenya/Uganda to South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, Rwanda, Mauritius or Seychelles, you will need a valid yellow fever certificate.
- **Other countries in this document** only require a certificate if you arrive from or have transited through (for more than 12 hours), a yellow fever risk country.

South Africa does not require rabies, hepatitis, typhoid or other vaccinations for entry, but your travel clinic may recommend them.

4. Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend comprehensive travel insurance from the moment you pay your first deposit. It should cover:

- Medical and emergency evacuation expenses, including pre-existing conditions.
- Cancellation and curtailment.
- Personal accidents.
- Personal effects and baggage.

Some travellers rely on their credit card cover or ask their card provider to upgrade it. Please check that the cover is enough for your trip. Kenya, Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar also have mandatory insurance requirements (see section 2).

For maximum cover, we recommend buying insurance within 21 days of your first payment.
Compare policies here: Forbes Advisor – best travel insurance

Our Recommended Broker
You are welcome to use any insurer. We work with Travel Insurance Centre, a division of SMS (Senior Market Sales) and a member of the United States Travel Insurance Association (UStiA). They are worldwide travel insurance brokers based in Omaha, Nebraska, with over 35 years' experience, and cover all destinations.

- **Contact:** Jonah Engel
- **Promo code:** TOURISM THAT CARES
- **Email:** travelinsurance36@gmail.com
- **Phone:** +1 402 404 5205

We cannot accept responsibility for any losses or expenses you or your party may incur as a result of not having adequate travel insurance.

5. Credit Cards, Cash and Banking

- Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted. American Express and Diners Club are often not accepted.
- Carry US dollars in small denominations for visas on arrival, tips and markets. Change for large notes is often not available.
- Notes printed before 2013, or damaged notes, are often refused.
- Tell your bank your travel dates and the countries you will visit, so your cards are not blocked.

6. Spare Copies of Documents

Make certified copies of your passports, flight tickets and travel vouchers, and keep them separate from the originals. Also save digital copies to your phone or email.

7. Personal Medication

Bring enough of your personal medication for the whole trip, as local pharmacies may not stock your brand. Larger towns and cities have good hospitals, clinics and pharmacies. Keep medication in your hand luggage, with a certified copy of your prescription to confirm it is for personal use.

8. Luggage Restrictions

Scheduled Flights

Most scheduled flights within Africa allow, per person in economy class:

- 1 checked bag of up to 20kg (44lb)
- 1 piece of hand luggage of up to 7kg (15lb)

Allowances vary by airline and ticket type, so please check your ticket.

Light Aircraft and Seat-in-Plane Charters

Flights between safari camps use small aircraft with strict weight limits. In most cases, each person may take:

- 1 soft bag between 15kg to 20kg (33lb to 44lb), including hand luggage, unless your consultant confirms otherwise.
- Soft-sided duffel bags only, with no wheels or rigid frame, as bags must fit into the aircraft's luggage pods.

> ***Very important:*** *excess luggage will not be carried. You will have to pay for an extra seat on arrival or, if none is available, for a separate air courier at a high cost. Please check with your consultant, at least 30 days before travel, which flights use light aircraft and what the exact limits are.*

Plan to use laundry services rather than packing extra clothes. If you arrive with more luggage (for example, on a two-bag allowance from North America) and return through the same airport, ask your consultant about storing your extra bags. Booking an extra seat can also increase your allowance, but this must be arranged well in advance.

9. Safety

Southern and East Africa are well set up for tourism, and most visits are trouble-free. As anywhere, local knowledge is the key to staying safe.

- Avoid driving after dark outside the major cities, mainly because of livestock and wild animals on the roads.
- Avoid walking alone at night, especially in business districts and markets that empty out after office hours.
- Visit townships and informal settlements only with a guide or host, for example as part of a community project.
- Use a taxi or transfer arranged by your accommodation or guide.
- Keep valuables out of sight and use the safe in your room.

Your hosts and guides give the most reliable, up-to-date safety advice. Government travel advisories can be very general or out of date, so please discuss any concerns with us.

10. Wi-Fi Access and Mobile Phone Networks

Mobile coverage and Wi-Fi are good in most towns and cities, and most safari lodges now offer Wi-Fi. In remote areas, connections can be slow or limited. A local SIM or eSIM is usually the cheapest way to stay connected.

11. Tipping

Tipping is customary but never compulsory and should reflect the service you received. Many service staff rely on tips to supplement their income. Tips are usually given in cash, but many lodges let you add tips to your bill and pay by card.

As a general guide:

- **Airport transfers and short trips:** US$10 to US$15 per transfer, per group.
- **Guided day tours and safari activities:** US$30 to US$60 per day, per group. If you have a ranger and a tracker, split it between them, or aim for at least US$15 each.
- **Lodge or hotel staff (shared tip box):** US$30 per day for 1 room, up to US$80 per day for 3 or more rooms.
- **Restaurants, bars and coffee shops:** 10% of the bill, or up to 20% for excellent service. When paying in cash, tip in the local currency.

12. Clothing

Africa is not always hot. Mornings and evenings on open safari vehicles can be cold, **so pack layers**. Keep to the rule of casual, comfortable and conservative. Formal wear is rarely needed, even at 5-star hotels and lodges. Laundry services are widely available, usually within 12 hours, so pack light.

- Long-sleeved shirts, a jersey or hoodie.
- Jeans or trousers for evenings and cooler days.
- A warm, windproof jacket for early-morning and late-afternoon game drives.
- Neutral colours (khaki, green, beige) on safari; avoid bright white and dark blue or black, which attract tsetse flies in some areas.
- Modest clothing in towns and villages; swimwear is fine at pools and beaches.
- Comfortable walking shoes.
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, moisturiser and lip balm, as the air is dry on safari.
- Insect repellent.

13. Photography

Bring a good camera, chargers, spare memory cards and 2 to 3 sets of batteries: one charging, one in the camera and one spare. Always ask permission before photographing people, and do not photograph airports, border posts or military and government buildings.

14. Power Points

Buy a universal travel adaptor before you leave home, as the right one may be hard to find on arrival. In South Africa, adaptors are sold at airports and at stores such as *Incredible Connection* and *Clicks*.

Country	Plug types	Country	Plug types
South Africa	M, N, C	Kenya	G
Botswana	D, G, M	Tanzania and Zanzibar	D, G
Namibia	D, M	Rwanda	C, J
Zimbabwe	D, G	Uganda	G
Zambia	C, D, G	Mauritius	C, G
Mozambique	C, F, M	Seychelles	G

Travelling With Children Under 18 Years of Age

Every child, including babies, needs their own passport. Rules are strict, and airlines can refuse boarding if documents are missing. Where a country has no specific written rule, we still strongly recommend carrying the documents marked “recommended”, as immigration officers and airlines may ask for them.

General Requirements (All Countries)

Passport and Visa

- Valid for at least 6 months from the date of entry, with 2 blank pages per country.
- Children need the same visa, ETA or travel authorisation as adults.

Travelling With Both Parents

- Passport.
- Original or certified copy of the unabridged (full) birth certificate.

Travelling With One Parent

- Original or certified copy of the unabridged (full) birth certificate.
- Affidavit or consent letter from the parent who is not travelling, plus a copy of their passport and their contact details.
- If applicable instead: a court order granting sole parental responsibility, or the death certificate of the other parent.

Travelling With a Non-Parent or Unaccompanied

- Original or certified copy of the unabridged (full) birth certificate.
- Affidavit or consent letter from both parents (or legal guardians), plus copies of their passports and their contact details.
- A letter from the person receiving the child, with their address, contact details and a copy of their passport.

> **Good practice:** affidavits and consent letters should be in English (or with a certified English translation), signed before a commissioner of oaths or notary, and dated within 3 months of travel.

Country-Specific Notes

The general requirements apply, plus the following:

Botswana

- 3 Blank passport pages.

Namibia

- 3 Blank passport pages.
- Visa fees, where a visa applies.

Zimbabwe

- 3 Blank passport pages.

Zambia

- Requirements change often. Please confirm with the Zambian embassy in your country, and with your airline, before you travel.

Mozambique

- Consent affidavits must be notarised and not older than 3 months.

Kenya

- Every child, including infants, needs their own approved ETA.

Tanzania

- Every child needs their own visa application, with a copy of the birth certificate, the parents' passports, and a form signed by a parent.
- If travelling with one parent, a consent letter from the other parent is required for the visa application.
- Inbound Travel Insurance is required.
- Source: Tanzania eVisa guidelines

Zanzibar

- Tanzania visa rules apply.
- Zanzibar Inbound Travel Insurance is required.

Rwanda

- No extra requirements.

Uganda

- eVisa must be applied for before travel; visas are not issued on arrival.
- Yellow fever certificate required from age one.

Mauritius

- Include each child on the All-in-One Travel Form.

Seychelles

- Every child needs their own Travel Authorisation (ETA).
- Consent letters must be notarised.

Last updated: 2 October 2026

> Travel, visa, health and entry requirements can change at short notice. This document is a helpful guide, but it is your responsibility to check all requirements using the official links provided, your own research, your travel consultant and the relevant embassy, consulate or immigration authority before you travel.