

# South Africa

## Information for applicants

### South Africa

South Africa is the southernmost nation on the African continent. This country at the cape attracts thousands of tourists every year with its temperate climate, many sites of natural beauty and good infrastructure. At the same time, it faces major social, economic and environmental challenges.

The façades of the big cities like Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town give the impression of a rich and advanced country.

However, the lives of many people in the sprawling townships on the outskirts of the cities and across the country are very different. A lack of education plus the difficult economic situation in this country, which depends so heavily on global economic trends, result in high unemployment, particularly among young people, and inequality between a growing prosperous middle class and large swathes of the population, which is apparent even in everyday life.

The difficult domestic political situation during Zuma's presidency, which was marked by major corruption scandals, has stabilised since Cyril Ramaphosa took over as president. However, he needs to be confirmed in office by the upcoming national elections in 2019, before he can truly set about making the changes needed for successful reorientation.

### Medical care

In South Africa, especially in Pretoria and Johannesburg, private clinics and practices offer outstanding medical services that meet European standards.

### Quality of living

**Currency:** South African rand

**Language:** Afrikaans, English

**Form of government:** republic, presidential constitution

**Head of state:** Cyril Ramaphosa

### Finding accommodation

The accommodation market in South Africa is far more short-term in nature than the German market. That means that tenants can often move into a new lodging no more than 2 - 3 weeks after signing the contract. One source of accommodation offers is the local daily newspaper or the 'junk mail'. The latter is published once a week and is available in supermarkets and petrol stations, for example. Another way to find accommodation is to look out for real estate agent signs on the roads indicating which houses are available. South African real estate agents do not charge the brokerage fees common in Germany. However, houses and apartments rented through agents are generally more expensive than private offers.

The local GIZ management must approve the rent as appropriate. Costs for additional security measures will be covered to a limited extent in accordance with the recommendations of the security advisor.

## Shops and services

Everyday goods are almost as widely available as in Germany. Everything is available in large shopping centres. This is true of drugstore products and toiletries, as well as clothing, electrical appliances etc. In some sectors, the prices are significantly lower than those in big German cities, but much higher in others. Shops offering a similar range to those in Europe are generally open from 9:00 to 17:00 pm or 18:00, and until 14:00 or 16:00 on Saturday; supermarkets have longer opening hours.

You can withdraw cash in the local currency at most ATMs using a debit card. Increasingly, ATMs can also be found in shopping centres or petrol stations. You can exchange cash in banks and bureaux de change, but they generally charge fees. Many shops, hotels and restaurants accept debit card payments. Credit cards are widespread in South Africa, especially Diners Club, Eurocard/Mastercard and Visa; American Express cards are only accepted with restrictions.

## Climate

Overall, the climate is temperate: sub-tropical in the north and Mediterranean at the coast. The lack of precipitation renders agriculture impossible in many

areas of the country. Pretoria and Johannesburg are at elevations significantly higher than 1,000 m, which takes some getting used to initially. Winters (June – August/September) are characterised by dry weather, short sunny days with midday temperatures around 20 degrees, but cold nights (as low as 0 degrees Celsius). Houses and apartments do not have central heating systems. Fireplaces, mobile gas heaters or the heating function of air conditioning systems (which uses a lot of electricity) are used for heating.

## Accompanying partners

As soon as the contractor (field staff member/development worker) is accredited through South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) in accordance with the TC general agreement, accompanying partners (married or non-marital life partners) are entitled to work in South Africa in all three scenarios. The accompanying partner is subject to South African taxation in all three scenarios and is hired in accordance with South African standards.

## Schools and childcare

The education system is very good. There are international and German schools, both in Pretoria, where the GIZ office is located, and in Johannesburg. Kindergartens accept children at a very young age.

## Find out more

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/312.html>

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussernpolitik/laenderinformationen/suedafrika-node>

**Published by:**  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices  
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Street address  
Post code, town/city, country  
T +49 61 96 79-0  
F +49 61 96 79-11 15  
E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

Eschborn 2017

**Responsible/Editor, etc.:**  
Ulrich Heise, Eschborn

**URL links:**  
The providers of linked external websites are always responsible for their own content. GIZ explicitly disassociates itself from all such content.

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.