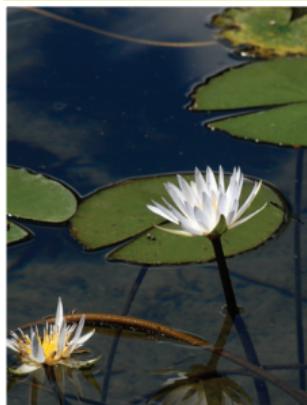


# POCKET GUIDE TO SOUTH AFRICA



PROVINCES

# SOUTH AFRICA

Pocket Guide to South Africa 2011/12

## PROVINCES

South Africa is a country where various cultures merge to form a unique nation, proud of its heritage.

The country boasts some of the world's most breathtaking scenery and features an amazing display of bird and wildlife species, which include the well-known Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino).

South Africa has nine provinces. Each province has its own legislature, premier and executive council.

The country has common boundaries with Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, while Mozambique and Swaziland lie to the north-east. Completely enclosed by South African territory in the south-east is the mountain kingdom of Lesotho.

### Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape, lying on the south-eastern South African coast, is a region of great natural beauty, particularly the rugged cliffs, rough seas and dense green bush of the stretch known as the Wild Coast.

The region boasts remarkable natural diversity, ranging from the dry, desolate Great Karoo to the lush forests of the Wild Coast and the Keiskamma Valley; the fertile Langkloof, renowned for its rich apple harvests; and the mountainous southern Drakensberg region at Elliot.

In the Eastern Cape, various floral habitats meet. Along the coast, the northern tropical forests intermingle with the more temperate woods of the south.



#### Eastern Cape

Capital:	Bhisho
Principal languages:	
isiXhosa	83,4%
Afrikaans	9,3%
English	3,6%
Population:	6 829 958 ( <i>Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2011</i> )
% share of total population:	13,5%
Area:	169 580 km <sup>2</sup>
% of total area:	13,9%



The province is serviced by airports situated in Port Elizabeth, East London, Mthatha and Bhisho.

## Free State



### Free State

Capital:	Bloemfontein
Principal languages:	
Sesotho	64,4%
Afrikaans	11,9%
isiXhosa	9,1%
Population:	2 759 644 ( <i>Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2011</i> )
% share of total population:	5,46%
Area:	129 480 km <sup>2</sup>
% of total area:	10,6%



The Free State, a province of wide horizons and blue skies, farmland, mountains, goldfields and widely dispersed towns, lies in the heart of South Africa. Between the Vaal River in the north and the Orange River in the south, this immense rolling prairie stretches as far as the eye can see.

The capital, Bloemfontein, houses the Supreme Court of Appeal, a leading university and some top schools.

Mining, particularly gold, is the biggest employer, followed by manufacturing.

A gold reef of over 400 km stretches across Gauteng and the Free State.

The province accounts for 30% of South Africa's total gold production, and contributes significant amounts of silver, bituminous coal and diamonds.

Known as the "bread basket" of South Africa, about 90% of the province is under cultivation for crop production.

## Gauteng

Gauteng is the economic centre of South Africa and the continent, responsible for over 34,8% of the country's total

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According to the South African Weather Service, the:

- Hottest place in South Africa is Letaba (Limpopo), with a mean annual temperature of 23,3° C and an average annual maximum temperature of 35° C.
- Coldest place in South Africa is Buffelsfontein near Molteno (Eastern Cape), with a mean annual temperature of 11,3° C and an average annual minimum temperature of 2,8° C.
- Highest ever rainfall in one year was measured at Jonkershoek in the Western Cape (3 874 mm in 1950). The wettest place in South Africa is Matiwa, with an average annual rainfall of 2 004 mm (calculated over a 60-year period). The driest place in South Africa is Alexander Bay in the Northern Cape, with an average annual rainfall of only 46 mm.
- Windiest place in South Africa is Cape Point (Western Cape), which experiences only 2% of all hours in the year with calm conditions. The annual average wind speed is 14,1 m/s, with 42,1% of the wind speeds greater than 8 m/s. The strongest wind gust ever in South Africa occurred at Beaufort West (Western Cape) on 16 May 1984 and measured 186 km/h.



gross domestic product (GDP), although it is the smallest of South Africa's nine provinces.

Gauteng is also the financial-services capital of Africa, as more than 70 foreign banks have their head offices in the province, as do at least the same number of South African banks, stockbrokers and insurance giants.

Financial and business services, logistics, manufacturing, property, telecommunications and trade are some of the most important economic sectors.

Johannesburg, nicknamed "Egoli" (Place of Gold), is the capital of the province and a city of contrasts. South of Johannesburg is Soweto.

There are 159 mines – 44 of them gold mines – in Gauteng, that together account for a quarter of South Africa's total mineral production. Most of the mining is for gold – 80% of Gauteng's output.

Most overseas visitors enter South Africa via OR Tambo International Airport.

Some 50 km north of Johannesburg lies Pretoria, the administrative capital of South Africa and home to the Union Buildings.

The Gautrain started running in June 2010 and now carries passengers between Johannesburg and Pretoria – stress-free and in less than 40 minutes.

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## Gauteng

Capital:

Johannesburg

Principal languages:

isiZulu	21,5%
Afrikaans	14,4%
Sesotho	13,1%
English	12,5%
Population:	11 328 203 ( <i>Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2011</i> )
% share of the total population:	22,4%
Area:	17 010 km <sup>2</sup>
% of total area:	1,4%



Gauteng offers high bird diversity, as it straddles the transition between several different biomes. About 350 species are regularly present, and many more have been recorded.

Gauteng offers the visitor 60 endemic species or near endemics to the southern African region.

## KwaZulu-Natal



## KwaZulu-Natal

Capital:

Pietermaritzburg

Principal languages:

isiZulu	80,9%
English	13,6%
Afrikaans	1,5%
Population:	10 819 130 ( <i>Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2011</i> )
% share of the total population:	21,39%
Area:	92 100 km <sup>2</sup>
% of total area:	7,6%



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KwaZulu-Natal is one of the country's most popular holiday destinations.

This verdant region includes South Africa's lush subtropical east coast. Washed by the warm Indian Ocean, it stretches from Port Edward in the south, and northwards to the Mozambique boundary.

In addition to the magnificent coastline, the province also boasts sweeping savanna in the east, and the majestic Drakensberg mountain range in the west.

Visitors to KwaZulu-Natal can disembark at the King Shaka International Airport, which opened in April 2010. Alternatively, they can make use of the extensive national road network.

The forestry, wood and wood products sector enables KwaZulu-Natal to participate in various associated businesses such as furniture-making.

### Limpopo

Limpopo, South Africa's northernmost province, borders onto Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana, making it the ideal entrance to Africa.

Named after the Limpopo River that flows along its northern border, the province is rich in wildlife, spectacular scenery and a wealth of historical and cultural treasures.

This province is in the Savanna Biome, an area of mixed grassland and trees, which is generally known as Bushveld.



#### Limpopo

Capital:

Polokwane

Principal languages:

Sesotho sa Leboa

52,1%

Xitsonga

22,4%

Tshivenda

15,9%

Population:

5 554 657 (*Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2011*)

% share of the total population: 10,98%

Area: 123 910 km<sup>2</sup>

% of total area: 10,2%



The province's natural resources include more than 50 provincial reserves, as well as several private game reserves. The largest section of the Kruger National Park is situated along the eastern boundary of Limpopo with Mozambique.

## Mpumalanga



### Mpumalanga

Capital:	Mbombela
Principal languages:	
siSwati	30,8%
isiZulu	26,4%
isiNdebele	12,1%
Population:	3 657 181 ( <i>Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2011</i> )
% share of the total population:	7,23%
Area:	79 490 km <sup>2</sup>
% of total area:	6,5%



Mpumalanga means "Place Where the Sun Rises". Due to the province's spectacular scenic beauty and abundance of wildlife, it is one of South Africa's major tourist destinations.

The area has a network of excellent roads and railway connections, making it highly accessible.

Because of its popularity as a tourist destination, Mpumalanga is also served by a number of small airports, such as the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport.

Mbombela (previously Nelspruit) is the capital of the province, and the administrative and business centre of the Lowveld. Other important towns are eMalahleni (previously Witbank), Standerton, Piet Retief, Malelane, Ermelo, Barberton and Sabie.

Mpumalanga falls mainly within the Grassland Biome. The escarpment and the Lowveld form a transitional zone between this grassland area and the Savanna Biome.

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### Northern Cape



#### Northern Cape

Capital:

Kimberley

Principal languages:

Afrikaans

68%

Setswana

20,8%

isiXhosa

2,5%

Population:

1 096 731 (*Mid-Year*

*Population Estimates, 2011*)

% share of the total population:

2,17%

Area:

361 830 km<sup>2</sup>

% of total area:

29,7%

The Northern Cape is the largest province in South Africa, (slightly bigger than Germany) – taking up almost a third of the country's total land area.

The province is noted for its San rock art, diamond diggings, 4x4 safaris and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. It is a vast stretch of semi-desert land.

The distance from the capital, Kimberley, on the eastern border to Springbok in the west, is more than 900 km. It is a large, dry region of fluctuating temperatures and varying topographies.

The Northern Cape lies to the south of the Orange River, which provides the basis for a healthy agricultural industry.

Away from the Orange, the landscape is characterised by vast arid plains with outcroppings of rock piles.

The province is renowned for its spectacular display of spring flowers, which, for a short period every year, attracts thousands of tourists.

Agriculture is one of the mainstay sectors of the Northern Cape's economy and is therefore critical in economic planning.

## North West



### North West

Capital:

Mahikeng

Principal languages:

Setswana

65,4%

Afrikaans

7,5%

isiXhosa

5,8%

Population:

3 253 390 (*Mid-Year*

*Population Estimates, 2011*)

% share of the total population:

6,43%

Area:

116 320 km<sup>2</sup>

% of total area:

9,5%



North West lies in the north of South Africa, on the Botswana border, fringed by the Kalahari desert in the west, Gauteng to the east, and the Free State to the south. It is known as the "Platinum Province" for the wealth of the metal it has underground.

The province boasts a year-round sunny climate, exciting wildlife destinations such as the Pilanesberg National Park and Madikwe Game Reserve, various cultural and historical attractions, as well as popular tourist destinations such as Sun City.

North West is centrally located on the subcontinent with direct road and rail links to all southern African countries, and with its own airport near the capital city, Mahikeng (previously Mafikeng).

Most economic activity is concentrated in the southern region (between Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp), Rustenburg, and the eastern region, where more than 83,3% of GDP per region of the province is generated.

## Western Cape

The Western Cape's natural beauty, complemented by its hospitality, cultural diversity, excellent wine and colourful

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### Western Cape

Capital:	Cape Town
Principal languages:	
Afrikaans	55,3%
isiXhosa	23,7%
English	19,3%
Population:	5 287 863 ( <i>Mid-Year Population Estimates, 2011</i> )
% share of the total population:	10,45%
Area:	129 370 km <sup>2</sup>
% of total area:	10,6%



cuisine, make the province one of the world's greatest tourist attractions.

Cape Town, the legislative capital, is one of the world's most beautiful cities and is a must-see for tourists. Other important towns in the province include Worcester and Stellenbosch, known for their winelands; George, renowned for indigenous timber and vegetable produce and for its world-class golf courses; and Oudtshoorn, known for its ostrich products and the celebrated Cango caves.