

CHAMPION SERVICES TRAVEL
SOUTH AFRICA TOUR
Know-B-4-U-GO

Dear South African Participant,

It is with great pleasure that we provide you with some helpful information to prepare you for your tour. Please read the information below in full for helpful hints and instructions for your South Africa Tour. Some items are repeated, because they are important.

PASSPORT/VISAS: A VISA is not required for US Citizens before traveling to South Africa. You may enter South Africa and receive a free visa stamp upon arrival if you hold a Passport from the United States. **Passports** are required for all U.S. citizens traveling abroad. U.S. citizens must have a passport which is valid for **at least six (6) months** after your return date. Due to TSA Secure Flight requirements, your name must match exactly as it appears on your Passport, including titles such as Jr. or Sr. and any multiple first, middle or last names. If accurate information is not provided, airlines may charge penalties to make corrections prior to departure, or even deny boarding, and you may not be permitted to enter the country. Any changes in names or passport information should be reported to CST immediately. Note; any name changes after final processing of your booking may result in additional fees.

Airline Departure Location: Round Trip Air Washington, Dulles Intl Airport (IAD). Arrive at the airport a minimum 4 hours prior to departure for your International flight. Economy Class Seats; you are allowed 1 checked bag max., 50lbs ea. on the **"International Flights Only"** and 1 carry-on at 15 lbs., plus a purse or backpack. Extra checked bags may start at a rate of \$80 per bag. (Business Class is allowed 2 checked bags at 50lbs. each, plus a carry-on, purse or backpack) **HOWEVER, for both economy & business class, you are only allowed 1 checked baggage on the "IN-COUNTY FLIGHTS", and the weight is reduced to 44lbs!** Women/Men are also allowed to carry a purse/backpack. Upon arrival please proceed through TSA Security and onto the boarding gate, where we will all meet. Airlines Group Department will not guarantee special seat assignment; however, we will do our best to request. Groups are normally in the same area of the plane. (Follow the TSA 3-1-1 Rule; 3 oz., 1 plastic bag, 1 container ea. and display in the bins when going through TSA) Flight schedules are subject to change without early notice. Make sure to alert CST in advance of any medical equipment you need to carry!

Added luggage note: Airlines today, have had issues with keeping up with our luggage, so we recommend you take pictures of your luggage, inside & out, and again at the airport, make sure your luggage has your name and contact information on both the outside and the inside. You may want to invest in a tracker!

CST Luggage Allowance: Although some air- carriers may allowed for 2 checked bags, our "Group" luggage policy allows each traveler one-1 checked piece of luggage weighing no more than 50lbs, plus one-1 carry-on weighing up to 15/18 lbs. Women/Men are also allowed to carry a purse or back-pack that must be able to fit in the overhead compartment or under the seat in front of you. In some cases a domestic flight within a country may ONLY allow for 1 check baggage. See baggage measurements and instructions per Ethiopian Airlines. <https://www.ethiopianairlines.com/aa/information/baggage-information/free-baggage-allowance>

Tour Package Includes:

Round Trip International Air, Round Trip Transfers in South Africa, In-Country Flights, Hotel Accommodations, Air conditioned coaches with qualified English speaking tour guides, country tours, a Safari, Breakfast daily and other meals mentioned in the itinerary. Weather range: 70-90, depending on the location.

Not Included:

Things of a personal nature, meals not mentioned in itinerary, beverages with some meals in itinerary (est. cost for meals vary depending on where you dine), tipping to cover our tour guide and driver. Recommended \$15, per person, per day (\$150 per person-SA only, or \$195 per person for SA & VF-to be collected upon entry in S. Africa by CST reps), and travel protection insurance. [Information on purchasing travel protection insurance can be found below.](#)

Eating and Drinking water in Southern Africa:

South Africa's food menu is tourist friendly. You can eat to your heart's desire. The only food item we caution is their tossed salad; as the lettuce leaves are rinsed in their water and may cause diarrhea or an upset stomach. Marinated, peeled, and cooked vegetables and fruit are just fine. We recommend you carry Imodium in the event it is needed. Although you can drink water from the tap in SA we recommend "Bottled Water"... We will provide the first bottle of water on our touring days. Bottle water is easily purchased at convenient stores or through our tour guides. Cost is nominally priced.

Communication:

Your cell phone may or may not operate in S. Africa; with today's technology most likely it will. We recommend you check with your cell phone provider for international coverage and cost. Our hotels do offer Free WIFI

Packing: During the March season, S. Africa can be warm to hot depending on our location. Expect the weather to be warm (Summer) with temperatures of 70-90's. Pack comfortable walking shoes. Recommend using the same color pallet to mix & match. Cotton and linen clothing works best; T-Shirts, cotton dresses, sun hat, jacket or shawl for evening. Make sure to pack your sun screen and sunglasses. Pack a travel size umbrella just in case. Carry medication as per each travelers need. **REMEMBER WE ARE ONLY ALLOWED 1 CHECKED BAGGAGE; SO PACK LIGHT!** There will be a **"Cultural Welcoming Dinner Event"**, so shine in Africa in your African Outfit! (Men & Women) Feel free to dress up as much as you wish for this event. Smart casual dress attire works for any occasion.

Suggested items to pack for International Travel: copies of your passport, travel insurance policy, medications, eyewear, phone charger, camera & accessories, voltage adaptor & plug, a travel umbrella and neck pillow for flying...

Our Flight Schedule: Ethiopian Airlines – Depart IAD at 10:00AM/ Arrive SA 1:00-2:00 PM (1 stop/ change planes in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). Approximate flying time 15+ hours with meals, movies, complementary beverages of all types including spirits and great services on board. 2026 updates will be issued

Returning Home: After a wonderful cultural, educational and fun vacation, we are expected to return to Dulles Intl. approximately 8:15AM Mar 24, 2026/S. Africa travelers. Mareb 26, 2025

Arriving in South Africa:

Upon arrival at the South African airport with our CST representative, we will proceed through customs and the baggage area, meet our tour representatives, and arrange transportation to our first hotel. Please do not leave the airport without the group. If you find yourself lost, go directly to the baggage area and wait for a CST representative.

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program: Optional - What is STEP; The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Visit this link after you have been issued your Airline E-Ticket. <https://step.state.gov/> this is designed for you the traveler so that the US Embassy knows of your whereabouts during your international travel...

Immunizations: Although some restrictions, and or requirements have been lifted, we highly recommend you have proof of a full **COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate**. No other immunizations are required for US citizens that are up on your childhood immunizations. It would be also wise to check beforehand if you are traveling from a health-risk area. Always check with your physician if you have health issues that need to be addressed. **ONLY IF YOU ARE TRAVELING TO ZIMBABWE/VICTORIA FALLS – MALARIA MEDICATION IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**

Carrying Money: It is the personal choice of each traveler to carry the amount of money you wish for at your leisure, outside activities & tours and shopping. A minimum allowance of \$50 per day should be more than enough (this is only a recommendation) you can take as much or little as you wish. Remember, if you spend \$10,000 or more you will have to declare it and pay taxes when returning to the US.

Money Exchange: The official currency in S. Africa is the Rand. The US Dollar to the SA Rand is currently at a rate of 18.09 Rands to \$1.00 US dollar. The US Dollar is very strong in SA. Currently \$1 US = \$18 Rand. The exchange rates may change and does vary. When changing your US\$ to Rand you will get a better rate in SA. There are money changers at the Airport and throughout SA. You can change small amounts at the airport in SA. If changing US-Dollars, make sure the bills are not younger than year 2006. If younger than 2006, it may be denied exchanged. Also make sure your dollars are not tattered, or torn. Another option; opening a Nationwide “Flex account” – you put enough money for your holiday in the account before you travel and you can then use your card you’re given at any of the ATM’s which are all over the place. Nationwide does not charge for withdrawing YOUR cash and they also offer a very high exchange rate. Most all Credit Cards are accepted throughout SA. Travelers Checks are not recommended, some places may not accept them.

Electric Adaptor: Universal Travel plug adapter for S. Africa – 3 round pin plug. Good for Grounded or Non-grounded **plugs** from other countries. Note: This **does** not convert the voltage from 110V to 220/240V. You will **need** a Voltage **Converter** for that. [electrical standards around the world](#). International converter for over 150 countries. (Zimbabwe- the power plugs and sockets are of type D and G. The standard voltage is 220 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.

International Adaptor >>>>



Your Cell Phone: You may be able to use your own cell phone. Check with your cell phone provider for information on international plans, activation, and per minute rates. FYI: there are free “AP’s” available. [WhatsApp & Facebook Messenger](#). It allows to you message and call friends and family without a cost. Cell phone to cell phone... you and your loved ones will have to download these apps to your cell phone to communicate. Check it out. We advise you to carry and extra charging cable.

Travel Protection Insurance: Is mandatory for this tour! You have the option of visiting our website for a free quote and to purchase [all4champion.com](#) “Travel Guard=AIG” – Please feel free to shop and compare other travel insurance companies

Traveling as a group? First and foremost, we kindly ask that you pack your patience and carry them with you every day, especially during our touring and gathering sessions. During our touring time, some activities may take longer depending on the activity and traveler. Think positive and take in the experience. **The first 4 seats on the motor coaches are reserved for the staff.** All other seats, are not reserved, however, we ask that we all are respectful of another person’s chosen seat.

ENJOY INCREDIBLE SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES - There are many SA vendors with many different arts & crafts to choose from... or maybe check out SA’s famous “Diamonds”?

What’s not included details?

- Meals not mentioned in itinerary and beverages with included meals
- **Mandatory Travel Protection Insurance.**
- Gratuity is not mandatory, however, expected. This is the main salary for the tour guides & drivers. Recommend \$15 per person per day for SA= \$150 or SA & VF = \$195 per person (will be collected upon arrival in SA at the 1st hotel check-in), please have your gratuity ready in US Dollars, in a sealed envelope, with your name and the \$-amount on the outside of the envelope CST Agent will be in the hotel lobby during check-in to collect your tipping

Why travel protection is important? Think beyond cancellation!

Protect you and your travel investment so you can relax and enjoy your trip with a peace of mind. Travel insurance, helps provide coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay, loss and theft, Medical Expense and Evacuation and more.

Even with the most meticulous planning, travel can be full of surprises. Here are just a few unforeseen circumstances that could arise before or during your travel:

- A family emergency arises the day before your departure.
- You become ill just before traveling.
- Your domestic connecting flight is delayed, causing you to miss your international flight.
- A severe storm grounds your international flight, resulting in missing part of your tour.
- Your bags are lost, misrouted, or damaged in transit.
- You experience food poisoning or sprain an ankle while on tour.
- You may require a wheelchair or medical assistance, which Travel Guard will provide during travel.
- Travel Guard also offers 24/7 concierge services. With travel protection, you can rest easy knowing you have coverage for unforeseen circumstances.

Tippling during your leisure time:

Gratuities to staff at hotels are at your discretion. Most restaurants expect the typical 10-20% gratuity as in the US. Check to make sure it has not already been added in your bill. Hotel maid service is not included in the gratuity.

How do I dial an International Phone Number from the USA? *(This information is best left for your family at home)*

SA Country Code: +27, followed by the number provided / V. Falls +263 followed by the number provided

What do I dial in an Emergency?

In case of an Emergency whilst in SA– dial, 10 111 / V. Falls 999

US Embassy SA - VF:

SA- Address: Pretoria 877 Pretorius St Arcadia, Pretoria - Phone: +27 (12) 431-4000

VF- Address: Harare, Zimbabwe - Phone: + 1 (202) 332-7100

Travel Documents:

The in-person meeting is scheduled to take place approximately two weeks before our departure, with the date to be determined (TBD). For those living outside the Washington Metro area (Washington DC, Maryland, or Virginia) and unable to attend our document gathering, you can have your package picked up or mailed to you. If you live within the Metro area and cannot attend, you may also have someone sign for it. Otherwise, a mailing fee will be added. Please alert CST if someone else is picking up your travel package.

Highly Recommend:

We highly recommend each traveler leave a copy of their passport, itinerary, and hotel information at home with a loved one. This should also include any important information you would want your family to have.

Accommodations & Phone Numbers: (from the US dial 011 + the number)

[The Da Vinci, SA](#)

[Kwa Maritane Bush Lodge, SA](#)

[Commodore Hotel, SA:](#)

[Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, Zimbabwe](#)

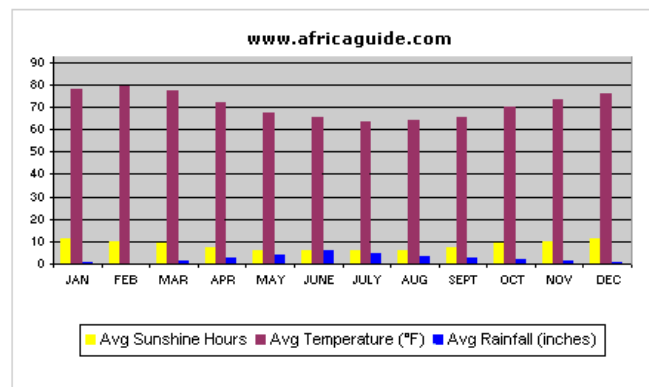
VICTORIA FALLS PARTICIPANTS: There is a SINGLE ENTRY VISA charge to enter ZIMBABWE of USD\$30 cash per person for USA passport holders. CASH US Dollars is required. Please view additional Zimbabwe notes. (Visa fees are subject to change without notice.)

- **Malaria Medication is highly advised** prior to the commencement of your holiday. Please contact your physician or travel clinic for advice as to which prophylactic is recommended.

Returning Home:

After a wonderful cultural, educational and fun vacation, we are expected to return to Dulles Intl. **Flight details to be determined.**

[Bernadette Champion Contact: 240.305-1969, to be used for emergencies while on travel only!](#)



VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE PARTICIPANTS

Please Note:

- United States of America passport holders **require a visa for Zimbabwe** which is only obtainable at the port of entry.
- We strongly advise you to take **precautions against malaria** prior to the commencement of your holiday. Please contact your physician or travel clinic for advice as to which prophylactic is recommended.
- All Non-South African passport holders are required to have at least **THREE**, entirely blank (unstamped) visa pages (i.e. one side of such a page not front and back thereof) in their passport, each time entry is sought into South Africa. These pages are in addition to the endorsement/amendment pages at the back of the passport. South African government regulations prohibit airlines from boarding passengers without the required blank visa pages.
- Passports must be valid for a **minimum of 6 months** after intended date of departure.
- **ZIMBABWE:** For **United States of America** passport holders' payment of **Single Entry Visas (US\$30)**, **Double Entry Visas (US\$45)** and **Multiple Entry Visas (US\$55)**. US dollars cash is required. We recommend the exact amount, as officials are not always in a position to give change.
- **ZIMBABWE:** Effective 01-Jan-2007 it is best to travel with **small denominations of US Dollars for extras, or any purchases**. Hotels only accept payment in foreign currency. No change will be given in foreign currency, but in Zimbabwe dollars. As a result of fluctuating exchange rates, **we recommend that guests do not use their credit cards for purchases within Zimbabwe**. We suggest that US cash is utilized. Hotels will also only accept US\$ notes printed after 2001.
- There is a **luggage-storage depot** on the upper level of the underground parkade, near the main lift lobby in International Arrivals at Johannesburg Airport. You may leave any baggage at a cost of R50.00 per item for the first day and R40.00 per item every day thereafter. Mastercard and Visa accepted. Open 24 hours 7 days a week. Tel (+27) 11-390-2064