



Keeping You Safe on Your Travels: Tourist Safety Tips Sheet

Visiting South Africa, like all cosmopolitan destinations, requires some vigilance and caution. Here are some safety tips to ensure you have an enjoyable, safe vacation:

General tips:

- **Put peace of mind in your pocket:** download the SECURA Traveller App by scanning the QR code at the end of this page or go to www.securatraveller.co.za. This gives you access to quick emergency response wherever you are.
- **Awareness:** Be aware of your surroundings. This simple habit can greatly increase your safety.
- **Stay "seen":** Avoid unknown or isolated areas and do not walk alone at night.
- **Valuables:** Keep your belongings close and do not flaunt expensive items like jewellery or electronics.
- **Stay in contact:** Store emergency numbers on your phone and keep it charged.
- **Travel with a tour operator:** This ensures a safer experience and in the unlikely event of an incident, they can facilitate quick assistance.
- **Solo travellers:** Share your plans with someone at your accommodation for extra peace of mind.
- **Township visits:** For a safe and enriching experience, choose a guided tour with a SATSA-registered operator – they are familiar with townships. Always listen to your guide's instructions. Avoid carrying large sums of money, wearing flashy jewellery, and zip up your bags.
- **Hiking:** Never hike alone. Take plenty of water and food with you. It is advisable to use a local guide familiar with the trails.
- **Communication:** Ensure you can communicate at any point whilst travelling or in an emergency. Get a local SIM card or activate data roaming.

At your accommodation:

- Use in-room safes and never leave important documents in view. Digitally backup your important documents and upload to cloud storage. Always carry a copy of your passport.

- Lock doors and windows when leaving or sleeping.
- Keep travel bags locked.

Transport:

- **Public transport:** If you are not using a tour operator, it's recommended to avoid public transport for safety and convenience reasons. Exceptions include the Gautrain (linking Johannesburg, Pretoria, and OR Tambo International Airport) and Cape Town's MyCiti bus system. Use reloadable travel cards.
- **Taxis:** Do not hail a taxi on the street. Rather arrange a transfer from your accommodation or use Uber, which is a viable option in urban zones. Always verify the vehicle's license plate matches that on your app.

Payments & money:

- Don't carry large amounts of cash.
- Card payments are widely accepted, even in rural towns.
- Withdraw cash from secure locations, such as hotels or shopping malls.

Safe driving:

- **Be safety savvy:** Lock car doors, boot and keep windows up, especially at stop streets or traffic lights. Keep personal belongings out of sight.
- **Stay connected:** Inform someone or your accommodation of your route and ETA.
- **Stay alert:** Watch out for potholes, pedestrians, and animals on the road.
- **Be wise:** Do not drive after dark.
- **Stay calm with law enforcement:** Be cooperative, ask for written fines and do not pay cash directly to officers – it's considered a bribe. If a bribe is extracted from you, note the officer's details and report them to the Tourism Hotline number below.
- **Follow your instincts:** Head to the nearest police station or public place. **Contact 10111** or dial the **Tourism Hotline: +27(0) 83 318 2475**. You can also access the SECURA Traveller app.



Peace of Mind in Your Pocket

Scan to download



Tourism HOTLINE number:

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