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The Rough Guide To South Africa, Lesotho & Swaziland (Rough Guides)



Synopsis

The Rough Guide to South Africa is the definitive guide to one of the world's most fascinating and varied countries. Discover the best the country has to offer with stunning photography, extensive maps, comprehensive listings and detailed practical information. With accommodation listings that range from the most sumptuous safari lodges to cheap and cheerful backpacker lodges in stunning coastal positions, there's something for every budget. In-depth coverage on South Africa's many nature reserves is complemented by an illustrated wildlife guide, to help you make the most of your time on safari. Whether you want to explore the country's big sights – from the wilds of Kruger National Park and the best spots for whale watching to Cape Town's vibrant dining scene – or to uncover its many hidden gems, such as the dramatic desert scenery of the Richtersveld, The Rough Guide to South Africa is your indispensable traveling companion. Make the most of your time on Earth with The Rough Guide to South Africa.

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Customer Reviews

Reliable, readable Rough Guides * Conde Nast Traveller *

South Africa is a bucket-list travel destination for every serious, committed and adventure-addicted traveler. The sublime landscapes, majestic wildlife and most of all, beauty of the various peoples of the Rainbow Nation, all make South Africa a truly special place. `Rough Guide: South Africa` is an excellent guide for the budget traveler who wants to both explore

and get to know this country beyond the secure environs of game lodges and luxury hotels. That said, Rough Guide does not tell the full story about South African reality. On the positive side, the guide, like all Rough Guides, is both comprehensive and easy-to-use. All seven provinces of the country are described in great detail. Even a few out-of-the-way places like, Cradock, Groot Marico, Venda, all get attention alongside CT, Joburg and Durban. The game parks are particularly well-covered, Kruger in particular, with the park divided up into parts and each explored in detail. Accommodation from basic camping to luxury lodges are all presented equally. In fact, the best thing about *Rough Guide: South Africa* is its thorough coverage of all the game and national parks the country has to offer. While Kruger gets the most attention, the lesser-visited gems of Addo Elephant, Mountain Zebra and Marakele are also presented in detail. The other great thing about *Rough Guide: South Africa* is the cultural, linguistic and historical background that it provides. The historical overview is solid and fair, the music and literature descriptions in-depth, and the language phrase guide very helpful. Furthermore, the maps, even for the smaller, provincial stops, are adequate enough to give the traveler sufficient orientation. So where does this Rough Guide fail? With both the small and big pictures. Starting with the small, the guide underestimates the difficulty of solo travel without transport. Rail links are spotty and far too dangerous for the solo backpacker. Intercity buses are the way to cross the country, but Rough Guide highlights only the major routes. And yes, the omnipresent *combi* taxis are indeed as the guide states, often the only way to get around in the rural areas. Yet, the guide understates the dangers of using these, especially again for the solo traveller. In addition, the guide is silent about the often unnerving level of chaos in this country. Banks and other services follow their own schedules. Therefore, be prepared to wait in interminable lines. Yet, the biggest failing of the Guide, one of great negligence in this reviewer's opinion, is its understated analysis of the crime situation within the country. South Africa is a very dangerous place, first and foremost for its citizens, and perhaps more so, for anybody travelling. Centuries of oppression have created some pretty awful problems. Rampant poverty, violent crime and seething resentment are the worst of these. Travelling solo in this country, you will be targeted. Lugging around a giant backpack advertizes you far and wide. Since backpackers and budget travelers are the main audience of Rough Guide, there should have been more emphasis on the potential dangers of touring solo in SA. The crime information given is fair and balanced, but minimal and greatly understated. With more attention paid to public safety, *Rough Guide: South Africa* could have been far more accurate. Yet, if you can avoid the

dangers, the rewards of this great country are many, especially the people you will meet along the way.

Excellent source of info! I bought both this as well as the Fodors guide and I would highly recommend this over the Fodors South Africa guide. This is packed full of so much more and has tons of detailed maps and color photos throughout. Definitely get for any trip to South Africa!

I used this for a guide during our guided tour through South Africa June 2016. It was very informative and useful as we drove through many regions of the country. It gave nice and apt descriptions of towns and a bit of culture and history that made it even more useful. I did use the Kindle edition as I do not prefer to be a burro and carry too heavy a load. Learning things along the way.

Very helpful; nice attention to details. Good history and music sections.

It's a nice travel book with a lot of good info

very inforamtive

Excellent travel resource -- covers all styles of travel for wide ranging interests--wildlife history politics adventure natural history; all levels of lodging. Up to date and invaluable for planning our second trip to South Africa!

it was recently published so it should be fairly up to date

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