

Expert Insights. Travelling in Africa

For a first time business traveller to Africa the heat, noise and number of people wanting your attention can be overwhelming, but we have a range of tried and tested travel tips to help you on your way.



From the Congo to Cameroon, globalisation is prising open markets that South African businesses were previously cautious about entering. As developing countries attempt to catch up to the developed world, economic and political reforms in these nations are exposing both the immense potential and unique obstacles in doing business in these uncharted waters.

Corporate Traveller brings you our top tips for travelling in Africa:

- Cash is king in Africa, and the US dollar rules. While many countries accept credit cards, cash remains the most successful means of transacting. Don't consider taking a cash passport or travellers cheques as they are not effective means of pay for anything. Also consider changing some of your US dollars into local currency, but only enough for your day to day needs. You will not be able to change the local currency back into Rands when you return to RSA.
- Understand the cultural nuances of the country to be visited. For example business society in Nigeria is relatively formal so it is appropriate to address Nigerians by their surnames, while a suit or jacket and tie are expected for business meetings. Ladies should avoid wearing trousers and dress modestly.
- It is highly advisable to use reputable, well-known local operators. Your travel manager will advise you on the best operators who can be counted on to be reliable. Your travel manager will also advise you to use airlines that have more frequent flights in and out of your destination. This will avoid lengthy delays if there are changes to your flight.

meet an expert.



What is your top tip for corporate travellers?

“If you are going to drive in the country you're visiting I recommend hiring a local driver as foreigners can find themselves in a sticky legal situation should they be involved in a traffic accident. Locals also have an excellent knowledge of the roads but be sure to hire a reputable driver.”

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- Travel insurance is a must. There are a variety of health risks to be aware of when travelling through Africa and the health facilities are not generally of a first world standard.
- Planning is essential. Make sure that you have the relevant visas, that your immunisations are up to date, you have the necessary cell phone coverage and that you have adequate finances for your business trip.
- If hiring a vehicle, hire a local driver as well. In certain countries the driver will be arrested if an accident occurs. If you are the driver you could land in jail for the duration of the investigation and this is not conducive to productivity.
- In Lagos it can take between three and four hours to travel 12 km's to the airport. So it is imperative to allow enough time to get to the airport plus the two hours needed for international check-in required by the airline.



- Traffic can be a nightmare so rather try to conduct your business meetings at your hotel.

Chat to your dedicated travel manager for more tips and information on how best to manage your Africa travel.



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about corporate traveller.

Corporate Traveller is a leading travel management specialist for the SME market. We offer a unique combination of expert advice, local personal service and global negotiating strength to maximise your savings.

The Corporate Traveller team is the best in the business. Our travel experts are highly experienced and have exceptional product knowledge to deliver airfare and accommodation options that will have an immediate and positive impact on your bottom line. Our flexible business model is shaped to match the distinctive needs of SMEs, enabling us to better understand your travel requirements, offer tailored solutions and build long-term partnerships.