



FAQS FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS



Garden Route, South Africa

GEORGE
WILDERNESS
UNIONDALE

GEORGE
naturally



FAQ's for international visitors



Currency

We use the South Africa Rand, but visitors with dollars or euros in their bank accounts will benefit from the highly favourable exchange rate, making most experiences exceptional value for money. Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, with card payments as the standard.



Tipping

Tipping at restaurants typically starts at 10%. It's customary to leave a tip, and only in rare cases of poor service would one withhold it as a message to the server.



Tap water

It is safe and common to drink the tap water in George.



Healthcare

South Africa has both public and private hospitals, though middle-class South Africans generally prefer private hospitals that are funded by their Medical Insurance plans. Ensure your travel insurance includes coverage for private hospitals to access top-quality medical care. George has several hospitals and healthcare facilities. Doctors are readily available, with the most convenient options for visitors likely being the **Walk in Doctor and Dentist**, where no appointment is needed, or Intercare George, where an appointment can be made online. The average cost for an in-person GP consultation during normal hours is approximately R550 per visit (approx. \$31 or €29), excluding medication. There are also many specialists in the area.



Visas

Please visit the Department of Home Affairs website to see if you need a visa, as well as the process for obtaining one.

Department of Home Affairs





Languages

Did you know that South Africa boasts a whopping eleven official languages! Here in the Western Cape, you'll mostly hear English, Xhosa, and Afrikaans. Ready to dive into the local lingo?

Here's a quick guide to some colourful words you'll encounter:

- Howzit** • A casual greeting, short for "How's it going?" or "How are you?"
- Lekker** • A word borrowed from Afrikaans, meaning "cool," "nice," or "good."
- Braai** • South African barbecue, but it's more than grilling; it's a whole social event.
- Robot** • Traffic light. South Africans will often say, "Turn left at the robot."
- Jol** • A fun time, party, or outing. "We had a great jol last night."
- Bakkie** • Pickup truck. "He drove his bakkie to the farm."
- Boet** • An affectionate term for "brother" or "friend".
- Shame** • An expression of empathy, used to show pity, sympathy, or affection. "Oh, shame, that's so sweet!"
- Ag** • A filler word, often used for emphasis or frustration. "Ag, I forgot my keys!"
- Sjoe** • An exclamation of surprise or admiration. "Sjoe, that's amazing!"
- Eish** • An expression of surprise, disapproval, or frustration, often used when something unfortunate happens.
- Kiff** • Similar to "lekker," meaning cool or awesome. "That's a kiff idea!"
- Mzansi** • A term used for South Africa itself, often in a patriotic sense.

*Dine with
a Local*

