



IAHS 2017 SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY

10 – 14 JULY 2017

PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA



INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA

The Country

Welcome to the southern tip of Africa. Here, two great oceans meet, warm weather lasts most of the year, and big game roams just beyond the city lights. South Africa is a nation of over 54-million people of diverse origins, cultures, languages and beliefs. Just over half of the population live in the cities. There are 11 officially recognised languages, most of them indigenous to South Africa. English is the language of the cities, of commerce and banking, of government, of road signs and official documents. Almost everywhere you go, you can expect to find people who speak or understand English.

Port Elizabeth is part of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan area and is located in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. With its population of 1.4 million, Port Elizabeth is the fourth largest city in South Africa, as well as South Africa's second oldest city. The city is commonly called "PE" or "The Windy City" for the strong coastal winds that prevail throughout the year. Port Elizabeth is approximately 800 kilometers from Cape Town and is a major port, industrial center and tourist destination.

Climate

July is the middle of winter in Port Elizabeth with the average maximum and minimum temperatures being 21⁰C and 13⁰C, respectively. Rainfall occurs throughout the year but may be less frequent during winter. Nevertheless, it may be wise to pack for both warm and cool weather conditions, including summer-weight clothes, a warm jacket, socks, good shoes and a light rain jacket.

Time

South Africa is GMT+2 and does not practice day light savings.

Health

Medical Facilities

Medical facilities in Port Elizabeth are world-class and are located within close proximity to the IAHS 2017 Scientific Assembly venue (The Boardwalk Hotel and Conference Centre) as follows: Elizabeth Donkin Hospital Pharmacy – 2.79 km; Life St. George’s Day Hospital – 4.85 km and Netcare Greenacres Hospital – 7.83 km, to name a few. Trained medical caregivers are deployed round the city, so help is never far away.

Water

High-quality tap (faucet) water is available almost everywhere in South Africa, treated so as to be free of harmful micro-organisms and in any area other than informal or shack settlements, is both palatable and safe to drink straight from the tap. In some areas, the water is mineral-rich, and you may experience a bit of gastric distress for a day or two until you

get used to it. Bottled mineral water, both sparkling and still, is readily available in most places.

Inoculations

Adults will not need any inoculations unless you're travelling from a yellow-fever endemic area (the yellow fever belt of Africa or South America), in which case you will need certification to prove your inoculation status when you arrive in South Africa. It is recommended that you have the required inoculations four to six weeks before you travel to South Africa (a yellow fever inoculation certificate only becomes valid 10 days after inoculation - after which it remains valid indefinitely).

You should also be aware of hepatitis, for which you can be inoculated.

HIV/Aids

South Africa has one of the highest rates of HIV in the world.

Others

The law prohibits smoking in most public spaces, including airports and railway stations. Most restaurants have designated smoking and non-smoking areas.

Safety

Crime in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, like many other places in today's world, can be a problem, but all you really need to do is take the usual sensible precautions and follow some basic safety rules. Know where you're going before you set off, particularly at night, watch your possessions, do not walk alone in dodgy areas, lock your doors at night. Like anywhere else, there are some areas of the major cities which are known to be more risky than others. It is easy to avoid these and still have a good time. If you cannot avoid such areas, then avoid wearing visible jewellery or carrying cameras and bags over your shoulder. Keep mobile phones and wallets tucked away where no one can see them. Check beforehand that the areas you plan to visit are safe by asking hotel staff, local inhabitants or the police. Other sensible advice is not to hitchhike, or accept or carry items for strangers.

Emergency Contacts

- The Universal Emergency Number in South Africa: 10111
- Crimeline: SMS 32211 / www.crimeline.co.za
- Netcare 911 Ambulance Service: +27 (0) 82 911
- Netcare Greenacres Hospital Emergency Unit: +27 (0) 41 3907120

Cellphone Usage

What is RICA? - The Regulation of Interception of Communications and Provision of Communication-related Information Act, or RICA as it is more commonly known, is South African government legislation that requires that all SIM cards be registered. The law was passed in 2011 with the aim of better monitoring criminal activity.

RICA affects any travellers to SA who wish to purchase a local SIM upon arrival. Those who wish to purchase a local SIM will, at the time of purchase, need to supply their passport and proof of where they are staying during their time in SA. This is relatively straightforward if you are staying at a formal place of accommodation; simply print proof of your reservation on a letterhead. However, if staying with friends or in informal accommodation (like a house swap), you will need an affidavit from the local property owner or tenant stating that you will be residing temporarily at the said address.

Money and Banking

South Africa's unit of currency is the rand, which is divided into 100 cents. Coins come in denominations of 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, R1, R2 and R5, and notes in denominations of R10, R20, R50, R100 and R200. From the moment you step off the plane you will start seeing banks, bureaux de change and automatic tellers all over. The banks are generally open from 9am to 3.30pm Mondays through Fridays, and 8.30am to 11am on Saturdays, but those at the airports adjust their hours to accommodate international flights. The major banks have branches as well as automated teller machines (ATMs) in most large towns – and all over the cities. Various foreign exchange services are also available in the major airports and cities.

All major credit cards can be used in South Africa, with American Express and Diners Club enjoying less universal acceptance than MasterCard and Visa. In some small towns, you may find you'll need to use cash.

The Walmer Park Shopping Centre located approximately 5.20 km from the Port Elizabeth International Airport, has Rennie's Foreign Exchange,

American Express and Master Currency Foreign Exchange. Furthermore, an American Express Foreign Exchange is located approximately 1.01 km from IAHS 2017 Scientific Assembly venue (The Boardwalk Hotel and Conference Centre).

Duty Free

Any person over the age of 18 may bring in the following, Cigarettes – up to 200 per person, Cigars – up to 20 per person, Cigarette or pipe tobacco – up to 250g per person, Perfume – up to 50ml per person, *Eau de toilette* (scented liquid lighter than cologne) – up to 250ml per person, Wine – up to 2 litres per person, Spirits and other alcoholic beverages – up to 1 litre in total per person.

Electricity

Electricity is generally 220/230 volts, 15 amps, and is supplied through either 15-amp three-prong or 5-amp two-prong plugs, in both cases with round pins. The images below display plug sockets and a travel adapter that may be used in South Africa.



Contact Persons

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For further information regarding Port Elizabeth, the conference venue and accommodation please visit the CWRR website below:

<http://cwrr.ukzn.ac.za/iahs/location>