



Weather & Climate

REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Western Cape				
Cape Town	Temp: 27° C max 15° C min Humidity: 77% Rainfall: 17mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 25° C max 14° C min Humidity: 77% Rainfall: 25mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 22° C max 7° C min Humidity: 80% Rainfall: 82mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 19° C max 9° C min Humidity: 80% Rainfall: 53mm Avg/mnth

The Cape's climate is described as Mediterranean with warm, dry summers and mild, moist winters. The Cape has a mostly temperate climate. Near the coast, summer temperatures range from a pleasant low of 15°C (59°F) to highs of 27°C (80.6°F). Inland temperatures are some 3 to 5 degrees higher, making for gorgeous summer days and nights. To many, February and April signals the arrival of idyllic Cape weather.

Summer's heat subsides, the wind settles, and autumn/fall casts its crimson, orange and yellow mantle over the vineyards, generating red, russet vistas spreading from the mountain tops to the sea. Coastal winters see the mercury dropping to a mild 7°C (44.6°F) at night – rising to a comfortable 18°C (64.4°F) by day.

Away from the beach, morning arrives at an invigorating 5°C (41°F), with midday temperatures in the region of 22°C (71.6°F). With the onset of spring (Aug – Oct), the fast-retreating winter gives way to the sun, awakening a riot of colour of the spectacular wild flower displays and sending residents and guests back onto the Cape's world-famous coastline of perfect beaches. This time of year is well-known for the Cape Doctor, the southeaster wind.

REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Western Cape				
Garden Route	Temp: 25° C max 15° C min Rainfall: 59mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 24° C max 14° C min Rainfall: 65mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 19° C max 8° C min Rainfall: 47mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 19° C max 9° C min Rainfall: 64mm Avg/mnth

The coastal belt along the Garden Route has a Mediterranean type climate with conditions similar to Cape Town although rain falls throughout the year so it's a lot wetter and greener. The best time to visit is from September to May. The best time to travel is in the spring and summer months (from September to April). The rest of the year is rather cool and wet.



REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Western Cape				
Karoo	Temp: 31° C max 14° C min Rainfall: 30mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 29° C max 14° C min Rainfall: 25mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 19° C max 5° C min Rainfall: 9mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 23° C max 7° C min Rainfall: 14mm Avg/mnth

The Karoo, the central high-plateau of South Africa, is surrounded by the mighty mountain chains of the escarpment. The rain, brought by the humid sea winds, goes down over the weather side of the mountain slopes, so that the lee side stays basically dry. Therefore, the endless grassland of the Karoo gets as little as 400 mm of rain annually, which falls mainly in summer. The winter months are almost completely dry. Precipitation gets even lighter towards the north-west. In the upper Karoo it rains on average less than 200 mm per year, which makes it an arid, semi-desert zone. Due to the average altitude of 1200 m on the central high-plateau, temperatures in summer are usually bearable, although the thermometer reading can sometimes go over 35 degrees Celsius. Towards the north-west, in the direction of the Kalahari basin, due to the lower elevation, temperature are even higher. (100m difference in altitude corresponds to 1 degree temperature difference.) In Upington, for example, at the lower Orange River, one can expect temperatures of around 40 degrees in summer. The best time to travel in the Karoo is between May and September. During the day, it is pleasantly warm and sunny (20 - 25 degrees C), and at night it gets cool enough for a good sleep.

REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Western Cape				
West Coast	Temp: 31° C max 15° C min Rainfall: 6mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 26° C max 14° C min Rainfall: 11mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 20° C max 8° C min Rainfall: 35mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 23° C max 9° C min Rainfall: 20mm Avg/mnth

Inland at places like Clanwilliam and the striking Cederberg mountain range temperatures can soar to above 50 ° C. Along the coast it is consistently windy and has become a major kiteboarding and windsurfing destination, especially during the blustery summer months. In winter temperatures can plummet with occasional snow falls on the Cederberg peaks. Spring is a great time to visit when spectacular wildflowers appear in the fields



REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Eastern Cape				
Port Elizabeth	Temp: 24° C max 16° C min Rainfall: 40mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 24° C max 15° C min Rainfall: 54mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 20° C max 9° C min Rainfall: 47mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 20° C max 11° C min Rainfall: 62mm Avg/mnth

Port Elizabeth boasts a wonderful moderate climate all year round and has been rated as having the fourth best weather in the world! Summers are dry and warm with relatively low humidity, while winters are notably mild, with year-round rainfall.

REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Northern Cape				
Upington/ Kalahari	Temp: 34° C max 17° C min Humidity: 32% Rainfall: 17mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 31° C max 26° C min Humidity: 46% Rainfall: 35mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 29° C max 21° C min Humidity: 50% Rainfall: 4mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 32° C max 21° C min Humidity: 32% Rainfall: 9mm Avg/mnth

Annual rainfall of approximately 250mm. The summer rain occurs from November to April, with March being the wettest month. Maximum temperature for the summer averages at 35°C (January) Maximum temperature during winter 21°C (July). Absolute minimum temperature for these months are 16°C and minus 5°C respectively. Dry months are from June to September, with August being the driest month.

Kimberly	Temp: 32° C max 17° C min Rainfall: 46mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 29° C max 15° C min Rainfall: 65mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 19° C max 4° C min Rainfall: 7mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 24° C max 9° C min Rainfall: 16mm Avg/mnth
----------	---	---	---	--

Hot region that is classified as semi-desert. It scarcely ever rains and some areas have less than 100 millimetres of annual rainfall. The temperatures are extreme, often above 40 degrees C during the day. In winter the days are warm and evenings can be cold with nightly frosts.



REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
North West				
Game Reserves/Sun City	Temp: 31° C max 18° C min Rainfall: 71mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 30° C max 16° C min Rainfall: 58mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 22° C max 4° C min Rainfall: 6mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 30° C max 14° C min Rainfall: 50mm Avg/mnth

The Highveld, the central plateau, as in the Lowveld, where summer temperatures can climb above 40 degrees. Rainfall in the Lowveld averages 800 mm per annum, and falls mainly during the summer months, which results in humid, sultry weather. The rainy season usually starts in September and can last until May. The climate is much more tolerable in the dry winter months of June, July and August. Then the days are mild and the nights a little cool.

REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Kwa-Zulu Natal				
Durban	Temp: 27° C max 21° C min Humidity: 70% Rainfall: 108mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 28° C max 20° C min Humidity: 68% Rainfall: 113mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 23° C max 11° C min Humidity: 56% Rainfall: 39mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 23° C max 13° C min Humidity:66 % Rainfall: 73mm Avg/mnth

The Drakensberg experiences hot summer days and refreshingly cool evenings. However its winters are extremely cold, sometimes with heavy snowfalls.

Drakensberg	Temp: 28° C max 16° C min Rainfall: 117mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 28° C max 15° C min Rainfall: 113mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 23° C max 4° C min Rainfall: 15mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 25° C max 10° C min Rainfall: 135mm Avg/mnth
-------------	--	--	--	--

The altitude of the Drakensberg and surrounding Midlands moderates the summer climate, where temperatures rarely climb to 30 degrees C. The rainy season is in summer (December to February) is characterised by daily thundershowers and can be intense with heavy downpours. Autumn is regarded as the best time to visit when the rainfall drops and the lush green mountain slopes change to golden blonde. Winterdays are warm, often above 20 degrees C and night temperatures frequently plummet to below zero with snow regularly illuminating the peaks.



Battlefields	Temp: 28° C max 17° C min Rainfall: 90mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 27° C max 15° C min Rainfall: 60mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 22° C max 3° C min Rainfall: 10mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 24° C max 16° C min Rainfall: mm Avg/mnth
---------------------	---	---	--	---

The Battlefields area enjoys a temperate climate with warm to hot summers and mild winters, which are cooler at night. The KZN Battlefields are mainly found in the north-central area of KwaZulu-Natal.

Zulu- land	Temp: 30° C max 27° C min Rainfall: 113mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 15° C max 12° C min Rainfall: 100mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 17° C max -2° C min Rainfall: 33mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 26° C max 9° C min Rainfall: 73mm Avg/mnth
-------------------	--	--	---	--

KwaZulu-Natal and Zululand in particular enjoys a warm sub-tropical climate for most part of the year. Summer (Nov - Feb) temperatures are hot, from 24 - 30 degrees celsius, and winter temperatures average 20 degrees celsius. Winters are ideal and from March/April the temperatures vary from about 11 degrees at night to around 30 degrees in the day. The rest of the year has very hot days and high humidity levels.

REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Mpumalanga				
Kruger National Park/ Game Reserves	Temp: 32° C max 20° C min Rainfall: 94mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 31° C max 19° C min Rainfall: 66mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 28° C max 10° C min Rainfall: 31mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 26° C max 6° C min Rainfall: 11mm Avg/mnth

The climate of the Kruger National Park and Lowveld is truly subtropical. Summer days are humid and hot with temperatures often soaring to above 40 degrees C. The dry winter season is the ideal time to visit this region for various reasons. There is less chance of contracting malaria and the days are milder. Viewing wildlife is more rewarding as the vegetation is more sparse and animals are drawn to the waterholes to drink every morning and evening. The rainy season is from September until May.



REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Panorama Route	Temp: 32° C max 20° C min Rainfall: 94mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 26° C max 6° C min Rainfall: 42mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 29° C max 15° C min Rainfall: 11mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 29° C max 16° C min Rainfall: 32mm Avg/mnth

Subtropical climate zone and has an annual rainfall average of approximately 800 mm. It is a summer rainfall region. The winter months of June, July, and August are dry. The season starts in September and lasts until May. While humid conditions prevail during the summer months

REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Limpopo				
Northern Kruger National Park	Temp: 28° C max 17° C min Rainfall: 92mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 32° C max 20° C min Rainfall: 92mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 32° C max 20° C min Rainfall: 92mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 32° C max 20° C min Rainfall: 92mm Avg/mnth

The geographical position of South Africa in the subtropical climate zone is not as noticeable on the Highveld, the central plateau, as in the Lowveld, where summer temperatures can climb above 40 degrees. Rainfall in the Lowveld averages 800 mm per annum, and falls mainly during the summer months, which results in humid, sultry weather. The climate is much more tolerable in the dry winter months of June, July and August. Then the days are mild and the nights a little cool. This time of the year is also ideal for animal viewing in the Kruger National Park, because the shrubs and trees don't have so many leaves to obstruct the view. Since it hardly ever rains in winter, the game must come to the waterholes to drink in the mornings and afternoons and can easily be observed. The rainy season usually starts in September and can last until May.

REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Free State				
Bloemfontein	Temp: 29° C max 15° C min Rainfall: 65mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 27° C max 12° C min Rainfall: 72mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 17° C max -2° C min Rainfall: 12 mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 24° C max 5° C min Rainfall: 12mm Avg/mnth

Climate is typical of the interior plateau with rain falling in summer, cold winters and lots of sunshine.



REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Gauteng				
Johannesburg	Temp: 25° C max 14° C min Rainfall: 117mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 24° C max 13° C min Rainfall: 72mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 17° C max 4° C min Rainfall: 9mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 20° C max 9° C min Rainfall: 35mm Avg/mnth

The high altitude of Johannesburg and the Highveld ensures favourable weather throughout the year. Summer days are pleasantly hot, evenings are comfortably cool and brief thundershowers are characteristic of this time of year. Winter days are warm, up to 25 degrees C and evenings are cold with frequent frosts.

REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Lesotho				
	Temp: 32° C max 13° C min Rainfall: 100mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 26° C max 11° C min Rainfall: 92mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 17° C max 2° C min Rainfall: 20mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 24° C max 5° C min Rainfall: 43mm Avg/mnth

Weather conditions in Lesotho vary greatly depending on the altitude. Summer is the hot, rainy season from October to April, with the hottest days in January and February, and the most rain falling between March and May and October and November. Days are sunny with afternoon electric thunderstorms, and temperatures range from around 86°F (30°C) in the lowlands with cooler temperatures as the altitude increases, averaging about 64°F (18°C) in the mountains. Snow falls mainly in winter from May to September, but can occur in the mountains at any time of year. Winter can be bitterly cold, particularly in the highlands, but days are usually clear and sunny. Temperatures can fall to 20°F (-7°C) in the lowlands and 0°F (-18°C) in the highlands. At any time of year the weather can change very rapidly in the highlands from warm sunshine to mist, rain and freezing temperatures.

REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Swaziland				
	Temp: 27° C max 22° C min Rainfall: 100mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 26° C max 20° C min Rainfall: 75mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 25° C max 17° C min Rainfall: 25mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 26° C max 19° C min Rainfall: 125mm Avg/mnth

Due to the variations in altitude the weather is changeable. Except in the lowland, it is rarely uncomfortably hot and nowhere very cold. Although frosts occasionally occur in the Highveld which has a wetter, temperate climate. The Middleveld and Lubombo are drier and subtropical with most rain from October to March



REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Victoria Falls				
	Temp: 27° C max 18° C min Humidity: 54% Rainfall: 200mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 25° C max 11° C min Humidity: 50% Rainfall: 30mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 20° C max 8° C min Humidity: 42% Rainfall: 0mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 25° C max 11° C min Humidity: 36% Rainfall: 10mm Avg/mnth

Seasons aren't extreme -overall, the climate is very similar to that of southern California. Because of the elevation (averaging 3,000 ft/915 m), it rarely gets above 90 F/33 C or lower than about 45 F/7 C The best time to go is a matter of splitting the difference between comfort and optimum game viewing. The weather is most comfortable just after the rainy season, in May and June, but the grass is also highest then, and the animals are dispersed, in addition, the views of Victoria Falls are obscured by heavy mist. By October, animals are easy to see in the thinning vegetation and they congregate around water holes, but it's very hot, and Victoria Falls is at its least impressive.

REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Chobe				
	Temp: 33° C max 19° C min Humidity: 65% Rainfall: 86mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 29° C max 12° C min Humidity: 70% Rainfall: 18mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 24° C max 6° C min Humidity: 63% Rainfall: 0mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 27° C max 9° C min Humidity: 60% Rainfall: 0 mm Avg/mnth

The months between April and October are ideal for tourists in terms of weather and game viewing. This is the time when the wildlife is most prolific and easily spotted around the natural waterholes and dams.

REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Okavango				
	Temp: 33° C max 18° C min Humidity: 65% Rainfall: 88mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 30° C max 17° C min Humidity: 71% Rainfall: 71mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 23° C max 5° C min Humidity: 60% Rainfall: 5mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 31° C max 13° C min Humidity: 57% Rainfall: 15mm Avg/mnth

The hottest time of year in Botswana is also the wettest. The rainy season occurs in summer between October and April. The months between April and October are ideal for tourists in terms of weather and game viewing. This is the time when the wildlife is most prolific and easily spotted around the natural waterholes and dams. Dry and cool weather, with cold and often frosty nights, occurs between May and September, when the average daytime temperature is a pleasant 25°C (77°F).



REGION	SUMMER Mid Oct - Mid Febr	AUTUMN Febr - Apr	WINTER May- July	SPRING Aug - Oct
Namibia				
Southern	Temp: 34° C max 17° C min Rainfall:75 mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 29° C max 14° C min Rainfall:39 mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 22° C max 7° C min Rainfall: 6mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 24° C max 7° C min Rainfall: 10mm Avg/mnth

Midsummer temperatures from the south and through the central regions can rise to over 35°C. In winter, day-time temperatures can vary between 18-25°C, while at night and in the morning it can drop to below freezing. The rainy season is from October/November through to March/April. Humidity levels can be very high in summer.

Northern	Temp: 32° C max 18° C min Rainfall: 80mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 29° C max 15° C min Rainfall: 43mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 24° C max 8° C min Rainfall: 11mm Avg/mnth	Temp: 27° C max 10° C min Rainfall: 15mm Avg/mnth
----------	---	---	--	---

Namibia is the most arid country in Southern Africa, with a humidity of less than 10% during the winter months and varying from 50% to 80% in the summer.