

# SEASONS: SOUTH AFRICA

When to Go & What to Pack



## SOUTH AFRICA

*PLEASE NOTE: Weather patterns are changing all the time and the below is a general guideline as well as a personal comment based on our experience of travelling at this time of the year. It is by no means a weather guarantee.*

South Africa has many climates! The Mediterranean Western Cape, the sub-tropical and arid Eastern Cape and the sub-tropical Kruger region. They all have hot summers (December to March), and the coldest months being July and August. The Western Cape has a winter rainfall, while the Kruger area has a summer rainfall and the Eastern Cape relatively little rainfall.

### January to March

#### LOVELY TIME IN THE WESTERN & EASTERN CAPE

Peak season for the Cape Town and Winelands with lovely warm and dry days. It is also a good time to be on safari in the Eastern Cape as it is not nearly as wet as the Kruger.

- JANUARY:** Nice and hot month all round, dry in the Western Cape, heaviest rainfall in the Kruger, some rains in the Eastern Cape.
- FEBRUARY:** The hottest month of the year. Fantastic in the Cape, Kruger area can be wet.
- MARCH:** The last hot and relatively dry month. Beautiful month all round and a good time to visit the Cape and Kruger. Tula Filed Camp opens on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.

#### AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

	Western Cape (very little rain)	Eastern Cape (some rain)	Kruger (heavy rains)
Average Day	28°C / 82°F	34°C / 93°F	32°C / 90°F
Average Night	16°C / 61°F	16°C / 61°F	21°C / 70°F

#### WHAT TO PACK

It is summer so light clothes and sun protection. Cape Town region will be dry with warm days and cooler evenings. The Cape tends to have wind most of the year so bring light jersey and wind jackets. The Eastern Cape will be very hot so prepare for hot days and some light rains. Kruger will also be very hot with a high chance of rainfall so rain jackets are essential.

### April to June

#### IN-BETWEEN SEASONS

Temperatures start to drop which makes for a very comfortable time to travel. Autumn (April and May) and spring (September and October) are the nicest times to travel in South Africa as all regions are generally lovely, days not too hot and evenings not too cold. The rains begin in about May in the Cape and the days dry out in the Kruger region from May. The Eastern Cape with its arid climate can be very cold in the early mornings and evenings but the days are sensational. KwanDwe has special winter suits to keep guests warm on game drives.

- APRIL:** Temperature cools down and the rain level increases in the Cape while the northern parts rains stop.
- MAY:** A wet month in the Cape with temperatures dropping.
- JUNE:** Together with July these are the wettest and coldest two months of the year in the Western Cape. It is cold in the Eastern Cape and Kruger but also dry. KwanDwe is closed for the month of June.

#### AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

	Western Cape (rains)	Eastern Cape (little rain)	Kruger (very little rain)
Average Day	21°C / 70°F	24°C / 75°F	28°C / 82°F
Average Night	10°C / 50°F	6°C / 42°F	12°C / 54°F

#### WHAT TO PACK

Bring warm things, especially for May and June. Layers are always a good idea as we can have a cold snap followed by lovely warm days, mornings starting off cold and then hot by the middle of the day. In the Western Cape it will be wet, so rain gear is required. On safari in the Eastern Cape and Kruger regions it will be dry and cold so hats, scarves and gloves are essential.

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## July to September

### IN-BETWEEN SEASONS

Very similar to April to June period. Temperatures start to increase which makes for a very comfortable time to travel. Autumn (April and May) and spring (September and October) are the nicest times to travel in South Africa, as all regions are generally lovely, days not too hot and evenings not too cold. The rains end around September in the Cape and the days are dry in the Kruger. The Eastern Cape with its arid climate can be very cold in the early mornings and evenings but the days are sensational. KwanDwe has special winter suits to keep guests warm on game drives.

**JULY:** Together with June these are the wettest and coldest two months of the year in the Western Cape. It is cold in the Eastern Cape and Kruger but also dry.

**AUGUST:** In the Western Cape, it can be beautiful and dry one moment, but blustery and wet the next. Eastern Cape and Kruger are dry with cold nights with lovely warm days.

**SEPTEMBER:** Wonderful month for all of South Africa.

### AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Kruger
Average Day	18°C / 64°F	24°C / 75°F	28°C / 82°F
Average Night	8°C / 46°F	5°C / 41°F	12°C / 54°F

### WHAT TO PACK

Bring warm things, especially for July and August. Layers are always a good idea as we can have a cold snap followed by lovely warm days, mornings can start off cold and then hot by the middle of the day. In the Western Cape, it will be wet so rain gear required. On safari in the Eastern Cape and Kruger regions it will be dry and cold so hats, scarves and gloves are essential.

## October to December

### SUMMER DAYS

Another lovely period to travel as the Western Cape is fresh and green after the winter rains and the days are lovely and warm. The Kruger region starts off dry and hot with the summer rains bringing welcome relief from November. The Eastern Cape has had some rains and the temperatures start to climb making for comfortable days and evenings.

**OCTOBER:** In the Western Cape, temperatures rise and the rains decrease. The Kruger can have very hot days that are broken by the start of the summer rains. The Eastern Cape can be very hot with little rain.

**NOVEMBER:** The Western Cape is fantastic and days are heating up nicely. Kruger has some lovely rains with hot days, as does the Eastern Cape. Tanda Tula Field Camp is closed from the 1<sup>st</sup> of November.

**DECEMBER:** The Western Cape is beautiful with slight chances of rain, but generally warm dry days. The Kruger and Eastern Cape have some rains (less in the arid Eastern Cape) with hot days.

### AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Kruger
Average Day	23°C / 73°F	31°C / 88°F	32°C / 90°F
Average Night	13°C / 55°F	13°C / 55°F	19°C / 66°F

### WHAT TO PACK

It is summer so light clothes and sun protection. Cape Town region will be dry with warm days and cooler evenings. The Cape tends to have wind most of the year so bring light jerseys and wind jackets. The Eastern Cape will be very hot so prepare for hot days and some light rains. The Kruger will also be very hot with a high chance of rainfall so rain jackets are essential.