

## WELCOME

### TRAVELLER'S INFORMATION

## International Veterinary Biosafety Working Group

26–29 November 2012

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*Welcome, Welkom, Sawubona, Dumelang*

We welcome you with open arms and hearts and the warmest, widest of smiles, excited to invite you to our shores, homes and braais.

Come and experience our hospitality wherever you go and get in touch with our wide variety of fascinating cultures and local traditions. Our people are ready to show you our country's natural wonders, draw you into the rhythm and soul of Africa, give you close encounters with our regal wildlife and take you on an unforgettable journey through our ancient and recent past.

We guarantee you will have incredible stories to tell...

This information leaflet serves to inform you of the necessary preparations before you travel, and what you can expect once you arrived in Pretoria, South Africa. Through this leaflet, we hope you get the most of your short stay in the Gauteng Province, South Africa.

If you have not already done so, please register online at the following address:

<http://www.ivbw.camp9.org>

The meeting will be at the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) – Central office premises in Hatfield Pretoria (<http://www.arc.agric.za/home.asp?pid=2564>) .

The location is on the map you will find below.

Hotel accommodation is reserved for you at the **Protea Hotel, Hatfield** in Pretoria. It is less than 200 m walking distance of the meeting venue at the ARC–Central Office banqueting hall.

For a shuttle/limo service you can contact for rates:

[Schubartrg@discoverymail.co.za](mailto:Schubartrg@discoverymail.co.za)

## Accommodation

For all matters regarding the hotel accommodation, you can send a mail to **Innocentia** at the hotel to make the booking and quoted IVBWG as reference. The single rate negotiated for IVBWG meeting is R850 per night breakfast included.

**Innocentia Mahima**  
Protea Hotel Hatfield  
1141 Burnett Street, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0083  
Postnet Suite 121  
Private Bag X15, Menlo Park 0102  
Tel: +27 (0) 12 364 0300  
Fax: +27 (0) 12 364 0304  
Fax-to-email: +27 (0) 86 607 0334  
Email: [revenue@phhatfield.co.za](mailto:revenue@phhatfield.co.za)

### Venue: ARC- Central Office



<http://www.proteahotels.com/protea-hotel-hatfield.html>

<http://goo.gl/maps/M1Ajk> (Google map link)

◦300 metres to the University of Pretoria

Protea Hotel Hatfield is centrally situated in the heart of Hatfield, Pretoria:

◦3 km to the Union Buildings

◦6 km to Pretoria CBD

◦45 km to O.R. Tambo International Airport

◦52 km to Johannesburg

◦Walking distance to shops, landmarks, attractions, bus routes and stations

◦Close to restaurants, cinemas, embassies, sports stadiums and entertainment hubs, including Hatfield Square.

### Directions from O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg

Directions from OR Tambo International Airport using the Gautrain ([www.gautrain.co.za](http://www.gautrain.co.za))

1. Travel on the Gautrain from OR Tambo Station to Hatfield Station (change over at Marlboro Station)
2. Estimated traveling time 57 minutes.
3. Protea Hotel Hatfield is situated 100m from the Gautrain Hatfield Station –

GPS CO-ORDINATES: 25° 45' 02.86"S and 28° 14' 13.74

### Rooms

Protea Hotel Hatfield offers 119 modern rooms, comprising 8 Deluxe rooms, 51 Standard Twin rooms, 20 King rooms and 40 Queen rooms.

Each bedroom is en-suite and equipped with LCD televisions and satellite TV channels, hairdryer, telephone, digital laptop safe, air-conditioner, tea and coffee-making facilities, a writing desk and separate bathrooms with showers.

An iron and various adapters are available upon request.

South Africa has special plugs and adapters are not normally a part of the standard world kits. Those can be bought in Johannesburg airport before you leave with the Gautrain.



Facilities: Free WI-FI 100MB P/D; Air Conditioning; Bar; Restaurant; M-Net Cable Television; Satellite TV; Undercover Parking.

## Attractions

The Protea Hotel Hatfield is within easy reach of many major landmarks and attractions in Pretoria. From central Pretoria hotel, travel:

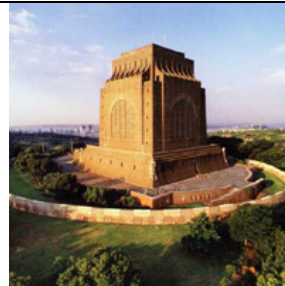
300m to the University of Pretoria  
 ◦3 km to the Union Buildings  
 ◦5 km to Menlyn Park Shopping Centre  
 ◦7 km to the Voortrekker Monument  
 And a short distance to:

- Pretoria Botanical Gardens
- Pretoria Zoo
- Transvaal Museum
- Brooklyn Mall
- Freedom Park

### World heritage sites

South Africa has eight world heritage sites, namely:

- [Robben Island](#)
- [iSimangaliso Wetland Park](#)
- [uKhahlamba-Drakensberg Park](#)
- [Mapungubwe](#)
- [Sterkfontein Cradle of Humankind](#)
- [Cape Floral Kingrom](#)
- [Vredefort Dome](#)
- [Richterveld cultural and botanical landscape.](#)



Voortrekker Monument



Church Sqaure



Union Buildings

## Climate

Pretoria is located in a summer rainfall area with hot days regularly followed by short and intense afternoon thunderstorms. The thunderstorms are often accompanied by lightning and occasionally result in hail. Summer temperatures range between 16°C at night to 32°C during the day. Winters are mild and dry with temperatures averaging between a minimum of 5°C and a maximum of 20°C.

## Entry into South Africa

<http://www.home-affairs.gov.za/Counties%20Exempy%20from%20SA%20Visaa.html>

### **Exempt and intend to stay for 30 days or less**

If you hold a national passport (diplomatic, official or ordinary) or a travel document for the any one of the following listed countries / territories / international organizations, you will not need to apply for a visa before arriving at a South African port of entry if you intend to stay for a period of 30 days or less, or are in transit:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Barbados
- Belize
- Benin
- Bolivia
- Cape Verde
- Costa Rica
- Cyprus
- Gabon
- Guyana
- Hong Kong Hungary
- Jordan
- Lesotho
- Macau Malaysia
- Malawi
- Maldives
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Peru
- Poland
- Seychelles
- Slovak Republic
- South Korea (Republic)
- Swaziland
- Thailand
- Turkey
- Zambia

## South Africa Fast Facts

When you first consider a trip to our neck of the woods, you're bound to want some facts about South Africa at your fingertips. Here are some of the basics:

**Geography:** Situated at the southern tip of Africa, South Africa has a landmass of 1 233 404 km<sup>2</sup> edged on 3 sides by a nearly 3000km coastline washed by the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic. It is bordered in the north by Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and also wraps itself around two independent countries, the Lesotho and Swaziland.

**Capitals:** South Africa has 3 capitals: Cape Town (Legislative), Pretoria (Administrative and Bloemfontein (Judicial).

**Political system:** A well-known fact about South Africa is that since 1994 we have enjoyed democratic government, the apartheid policies of the past overthrown. Our constitution is regarded as an example to the world, and enshrines a wide scope of human rights protected by an independent judiciary. The country is headed by a State President, Mr.Jacob Zuma, of the African National Congress (ANC).

**Economy:** A lesser-known fact on South Africa is that it has achieved steady economic growth in gross domestic product (GDP) since the late 90s. The country, regarded as an emerging market, has a well-developed financial sector and active stock exchange. Financial policies have focused on building solid macroeconomic structures. The country's central bank is the Reserve Bank.

**Tourism:** Since the demise of apartheid, international tourist arrivals have surged, making tourism one of the fastest growing sectors. The tourism industry is well-established with an exciting sector of emerging entrepreneurs. The country is strong

on adventure, sport, nature and wildlife travel and is a pioneer and global leader in responsible tourism.

**Population:** The South African population of more than 49m people is extremely diverse. Africans are in the majority, approx. 80% of the population, followed by the white population approx. 4,4m; the coloured population approx. 4.2 million and the Indian/Asian population at approx. 1,2m.

**Currency:** South Africa's currency is the rand, which offers visitors great value for money. The rand comes in a range of coins (R1 = 100 cents) and note denominations of R10, R50, R100.

**Climate:** South Africa has a temperate climate and is known for its long sunny days, hence the title: 'Sunny South Africa'. Most of the provinces have summer rainfall, except for the Western Cape (winter rainfall). Winter is from May to August; spring from September to October; Summer from November to February and Autumn is from March to April.

**Communications:** South Africa has an exceptionally well-developed communications infrastructure. A number of cell-phone providers provide national coverage and there are well-established landline phone networks. Internet and Wi-Fi are easily accessible in most urban areas.

**Provinces:** There are 9 provinces in South Africa, namely: Eastern Cape, Free State, Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal; Gauteng, North West, Northern Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga

**National Symbols:** The South African flag is a much-loved symbol of patriotism and other significant national emblems include: National bird: blue crane; National animal:



the springbok; National fish: galjoen; National flower: protea and National tree: the yellowwood.

Languages: South Africa is a multi-lingual country and there are 11 official languages including: English, Afrikaans, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Siswati, Tshivenda and Xitsonga. Composed by Enoch Sontonga in 1899, the Xhosa hymn 'Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika is South Africa's national anthem

Religions: Almost 80% of South Africa's population is Christian. Other major religious groups include Hindus, Muslims, Jews and Buddhists. A minority don't belong to any of the major religions. The Constitution guarantees freedom of worship.

Water: Tap water is potable. However, ensure that you take bottled water with you when travelling to remote rural areas and the bush.

Animals and Plants: South Africa has been declared one of the 18 megadiverse destinations in the world. As a pioneer and leader in responsible tourism, South Africa has numerous conservation projects to protect its natural heritage – travelers can support and take part in many of these projects. The country is home to the famous Big Five (rhino, elephant, lion, leopard and buffalo).

Electricity: The electricity supply is 220/230 volts AC 50 HZ – thick round pins.

Airports: The 3 major international airports in South Africa are: OR Tambo International Airport (Johannesburg), Cape Town International Airport and King Shaka International Airport (Durban) as well as 90 regional airports including the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA) in Nelspruit.

Travel by Road and Rail: South Africa has an extensive road infrastructure including national highways and secondary roads. Speed limits are set at 120 kilometres on highways; 100 kilometres on secondary roads and 60 kilometres in urban areas.

Entry requirements: South Africa requires a valid yellow fever certificate from all foreign visitors and citizens over 1 year of age travelling from an infected area or having been in transit through infected areas. For visa requirements, please contact your nearest South African diplomatic mission.

Health and safety: South Africa is well-known for its medical skill since Professor Christiaan Barnard performed the first successful heart transplant in 1967. There are many world-class private hospitals and medical centres around the country, especially in the urban centres. Most of South Africa is malaria-free, but always check with the game reserves you're planning to visit and take precautions if necessary. Make sure you have the latest safety tips from the establishment where you will be staying and take common sense precautions as you would when travelling.

For your own safety it is important to remember the following universal tips

At the Airport:

- Watch out for staged mishaps – like someone bumping into you or spilling a drink – this could be a ploy to divert your attention and steal your bag and passport;
- Do not take cabs that have been recommended by people standing outside the airport terminal.

At your Accommodation:

- Store valuables in the safety deposit box;
- Keep your room locked;
- If someone knocks, check who it is before opening the door. Contact reception if you have any reason for concern;
- Make sure that luggage is only given to bell staff, and a receipt is issued for stored luggage;

Do not leave unattended valuables on chairs, under tables or on restroom hooks.

On the Street:

- Avoid ostentatious display of expensive jewelry, cameras, mobile phones and other valuables;
- Keep your handbag closed or zipped, and your wallet in an inside pocket and not in the rear pocket of your trousers;
- Do not leave them unattended. Also, it is ill-advised to carry large sums of money with you;

Do not walk around talking on your mobile phone in the street and do not leave in unattended;

- Exchange your currency at a bank or at the hotel, not on the street.

In your Vehicle:

- Plan your route in advance; keep the doors locked and windows up at all times;
- Do not leave your mobile phone or other valuables where they are visible from outside the vehicle. Rather lock valuables in the boot (trunk) before your departure;
- Never pick up strangers or hitchhikers;
- If in doubt about the safety of an area, phone a police station for advice and help;
- Make sure you have the number of the car rental company at hand in case you get stranded.