



Travel Guide and Activities



Useful Information

Climate

The climate in Cape Town is classified as Mediterranean, characterised by warm, dry summers and mild, wet winters. Rainfall is most common from May to September. The city enjoys plenty of sunshine throughout the year

Money

South Africa uses the South African Rand (ZAR).

Most shops and hotels will accept all major credit cards, although AMEX is not commonly accepted. The main banks in South Africa are ABSA, Capitec, FNB, Standard Bank, and Nedbank.

Banking hours:

Monday to Friday: 09.00 – 15.30

Saturday: 08.30 – 11.00

Students on a study visa may open a local bank account. The closest bank to EC is Standard Bank, which is opposite the Clicks Pharmacy on Long Street. You will need the following to open a bank account: valid passport with study visa, an EC confirmation of study letter, and proof of Cape Town residential address.

Telephone Country Code

The country code for South Africa is +27. When dialing locally within Cape Town, area code 021 is commonly used, so international callers dialing Cape Town would use +27 21 followed by the local number.

Electricity

220/230 volts; 50 Hz. Wall plugs are domestically manufactured and are not compatible with foreign plugs. Adaptors are widely available in major supermarkets.

Cape Town

Must-See Sights and Travel Essentials

Cape Town is a vibrant metropolis located at the southern tip of South Africa. Known for its stunning landscapes, including the iconic Table Mountain and beautiful beaches, it is a melting pot of cultures, offering a rich history and diverse culinary scene. From beautiful beaches and towering mountains to bustling markets and historical sites, there's no shortage of things to do.

[Check out the Monthly Activities Calendar](#)

5 Things to Do

- Hike or take a cable car up Table Mountain
- Spend a day on the beaches of Clifton
- Tour Robben Island
- Dive with great white sharks in Gansbaai
- Watch a stunning sunset from Signal Hill

Loadshedding

South Africa has a constrained electricity supply. When the electricity supply is limited, loadshedding is implemented. This means that power is switched off in certain areas at certain times. Students should download the Eskom se Push app which will inform students of loadshedding times should loadshedding be implemented at short notice.

Tap water

Tap water in Cape Town is generally safe to drink and meets health standards, although the taste may differ to what you are used to. However, bottled water is readily available if preferred. Cape Town is in a water-scarce area and is prone to drought conditions. Please use water responsibly and try to save water where possible.

Transport

Cape Town offers various transportation options, including taxis, rideshares, buses, and trains. Taxis are commonly used and convenient, especially for shorter distances or getting around the city centre. Rideshare services are popular among both locals and tourists

Public Transport Info

Public transport primarily consists of buses operated by MyCiTi, which are safe and efficient for getting around the city. This is a modern bus system with electric buses which run regularly and mostly on time. Students will need to purchase a bus card and load credit onto the card. Bus cards are available at all bus stations and selected retail stores. The closest bus station to EC Cape Town is the Adderley Street Bus Station.

E-hailing taxis such as Uber and Bolt and commonly available in Cape Town and are well-priced. Most students use e-hailing taxis to travel around the city and it can be cheaper than using the bus when sharing a taxi. An e-hailing taxi can usually arrive within a few minutes of ordering one.

It is advised not to use the train service as it is unreliable and does not run efficiently.

Medical

If you need to see a doctor, please speak to the EC staff to arrange an appointment for you. For more serious injuries or illnesses, students should visit a private hospital. The closest hospital to the school is the Netcare Christiaan Bernard Memorial Hospital.

Depending on the urgency of the situation, medical fees can either be paid directly and then claimed back from your health insurance company or the health insurance company would need to issue authorisation to the hospital to administer medical care.

Useful Links

[What's On](#)

[Things to Do](#)

[Weather in Cape Town](#)

Legal Driving Age

The legal driving age in South Africa is 18 years old, although most car hire companies require drivers to be at least 21 years old. Cars drive on the left-hand side of the road in South Africa.

Public Holidays

Public holidays falling on a weekday

2026: 01 January, 02 February, 01 January, 03 April, 06 April, 27 April, 01 May, 16 June, 10 August, 24 September, 16 December, 25 December.

Visa Requirements

A visa may be required depending on your nationality and length of stay. For Visa information, please visit our Visa Requirements page

[Visa Requirements](#)

Cost of Living

Bottle of water / soda (0.33 litre)
€0.50-€1.00
Coffee/Cappuccino (Starbucks)
€1.35-€2.00
Fast-Food combo meal
€3.15-€5.15
Meal, inexpensive restaurant
€6.50-€13.00
Fitness club (monthly, 1 adult)
€30.00-€65.00
Public transport (local transport)
€0.65-€1.40 (one-way)

Alcohol Age

The legal drinking age in South Africa is 18 years. Alcohol can be purchased at licensed outlets, bars, and restaurants, though some may have age restrictions and require proof of age for entry or purchases. It is illegal to consume alcohol in public.

Smoking Laws

South Africa has strict smoking laws, prohibiting smoking in public spaces, restaurants, bars, and areas near entrances. The legal age for smoking in South Africa is 18 years.

Insurance

Students are required to have health or travel insurance when attending an English course at EC.

