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Home Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

230 Johannes Ramokhoase Street, Private Bag X114, Pretoria, 0001
Parliamentary Office, 120 Plein Street, Private Bag X9048. Cape Town, 8000

PASSPORT HOLDERS WHO ARE EXEMPT FROM VISAS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

1. The holder of a national South African passport, travel document or document for travel purposes does not require a port of entry visa to enter the country,

2. A staff member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) who travel on a SADC laissez-passer does not require a port of entry visa for bona fide official business visits up to 90 days and when in transit.

3. Holders of United Nations Laissez-passers; excluding its agencies, except for to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and persons performing services on behalf of the United Nations, including their spouses, dependent relatives and other members of their households, do not require port of entry visas when visiting the Republic for periods not exceeding 90 days, including official visits, transit or when applying for accreditation for placement at a UN mission in the Republic: Provided they are in possession of the relevant letters or identification documents to identify themselves at ports of entry as personnel of a United Nations agency.

4. Members of foreign military forces attending any military related matters with the South African National Defence Force do not require port of entry visas or study visas, irrespective of their duration of stay, provided that they are in possession of valid passports and letters of invitation by the South African National Defence Force, as well as letters of consent from the military force of which they are members.

5. Foreign commercial heavy-duty vehicle drivers from Lesotho, Botswana, Kingdom of Eswatini, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi do not require port of entry visas when entering the Republic, provided their visits do not exceed the period for which their respective countries enjoy visa free entry and on condition that they can produce a letter confirming their employment with a transport company abroad. Visitor's visas in terms of section 11(1)(a) of the Immigration Act, with authorisation to conduct work in terms of section 11(2) of the said Act, may be issued for the period of the visa exemption status of the respective country, which period may not exceed 90 days at a time.

6. General Work Visas are not required by foreign commercial heavy duty vehicle drivers who are employed by South African companies and originate from countries which enjoy visa free movement into South Africa, on condition that they can produce a letter confirming their employment on entry. In accordance with a High Court ruling by the North Gauteng High Court on 31 March 2011, foreign commercial heavy duty vehicle drivers may be issued with visitor's visas in terms of section 11(1)(a) of the Immigration Act, with authorisation to conduct work in terms of section 11(2) of the said Act for the period of their countries' visa exemption status, which period may not exceed 90 days at a time.

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7. With effect from 18 December 2015 travellers, with the exception of deportees, who transit through O R Tambo International Airport; Cape Town International Airport; King Shaka International Airport and Lanseria International Airport do not require transit visas as contemplated in section 10B(4)(a) of the Immigration Act, 2002 (Act No 13 of 2002). However, transiting passengers will be subjected to biometric capturing. Deportees transiting at any port of entry are required to be in possession of a transit visa at all times and must be escorted.

8. Further to this, with effect from 1 August 2022 all ordinary passport holders of Pakistan and Bangladesh who intend to enter South Africa *en route* to another country, are required to be in possession of a port of entry or a transit visa, as the case may be.

9. The attached Schedule outlines national passport holders from countries who are exempt from port of entry visa requirements, the category of passport holders who are exempt from port of entry visa requirements and the period for which such visa exemption applies. Where a national passport holder of a specific country is required to be in possession of a port of entry visa to proceed to South Africa, the list also outlines whether or not an administrative processing fee is payable or not. **Please note that countries marked with an asterisk are only subject to visa fees if the intended visit exceeds thirty (30) days:**

10. All travellers to South Africa are advised that if you are the holder of a national passport of a country whose passport holders are exempt from visa requirements, but your individual visa exemption has been officially withdrawn, a port of entry visa application must be submitted through the South African Embassy/ High Commission/ Consulate General in your country of origin or of long-term residence.

Issued on 19 March 2024

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Visa Exemption List

COUNTRY NAME/ORGANISATIONS	Passport Type					Visa Fees
	Diplomatic	Official	Service	Ordinary	Special	
African Union Laissez Passer	90 Days					No
African Development Bank Laissez-Passers	90 Days					No
Albania (Republic of)	120 Days	120 Days	120 Days			Yes
Algeria	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			No
Andorra (Principality of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Angola (Republic of)	90 Days			90 Days P/A	90 Days	Yes
Anguilla	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Antigua and Barbuda	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Argentina	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Australia	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Austria (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days		Yes
Bahamas				30 Days		Yes
Barbados	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Belarus (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Belgium	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Belize*	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		Yes
Benin (Republic of)*	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		Yes
Bermuda	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Botswana	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Brazil	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
British Antarctic Territory				90 Days		Yes
British Indian Ocean Territory	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
British Virgin Island	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Bulgaria (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Canada	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Cape Verde	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Cayman Islands	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Chile	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
China (People's Republic of)	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			Yes
Comoros (Union of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Congo (Democratic Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Costa Rica	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Croatia (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Cuba (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Cyprus	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	30 Days		No
Czech Republic	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Denmark (Kingdom of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Ducie and Oeno Islands	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes

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COUNTRY NAME/ORGANISATIONS	Passport Type					Visa Fees
	Diplomatic	Official	Service	Ordinary	Special	
Ecuador	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Egypt	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			No
Ethiopia (The Federal Democratic Republic of	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Falkland Islands	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Finland (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
France (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Gabon (Republic of)*	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		Yes
Germany (Federal Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Ghana (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days P/A		Yes
Gibraltar	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Greece (Hellenic Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Guernsey	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Guinea (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Guyana	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Henderson	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Hong Kong (SpecialAdministrative Region of China)*	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		Yes
Hungary	120 Days	120 Days	120 Days	30 Days		No
Iceland (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
India	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			No
Indonesia (Republic of)	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			Yes
Ireland	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Isle of Man	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Israel	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Italy (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Ivory Coast (Republic of Côte D'Ivoire)	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			Yes
Jamaica	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Japan	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Jersey	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Jordan	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Kenya (Republic of)*	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days P/A		Yes
Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland)	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Lesotho (Kingdom Of)	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Liberia	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Liechtenstein	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Lithuania (Republic of)	30 Days P/A	30 Days P/A				Yes
Luxembourg (Grand Duchy of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days		Yes
Macau				30 Days		No
Madagascar (Republic of)	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	90 Days P/A		Yes
Malawi	30 Days			30 Days	30 Days	No
Malaysia	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days		Yes

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COUNTRY NAME/ORGANISATIONS	Passport Type					Visa Fees
	Diplomatic	Official	Service	Ordinary	Special	
Maldives	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Mali (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Malta	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Mauritius	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Mexico	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			No
Monaco (Principality of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Montserrat	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Morocco (Kingdom of)	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			Yes
Mozambique (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	30 Days		Yes
Namibia	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	90 Days P/A		No
Netherlands (The Kingdom of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days		Yes
New Zealand				90 Days		Yes
Niger	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Nigeria (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Norway	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Palestine (State Of)				90 Days		No
Panama (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Paraguay	120 Days	120 Days	120 Days	90 Days		No
Peru	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		No
Pitcairn Islands	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Poland (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	30 Days		Yes
Portugal (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Qatar (State of)				90 Days		Yes
Republic of Korea (South Korea)*	30 Days	30 Days		30 Days		Yes
Romania	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Russian Federation	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Rwanda (Republic of)	30 Days	30 Days	30 Days			Yes
SADC laissez-passers		90 Days				No
Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha,Gough Island	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
San Marino (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
São Tomé and Príncipe (Democratic Republic of)				90 Days		Yes
Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of)				90 Days		Yes
Senegal	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			No
Seychelles	30 Days	30 Days		90 Days P/A		No
Sierre Leone (Republic of)	90 Days P/A	90 Days P/A	90 days P/A			Yes
Singapore (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Slovak Republic	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			No
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Spain (Kingdom of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days		Yes
Sweden	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No

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COUNTRY NAME/ORGANISATIONS	Passport Type					Visa Fees
	Diplomatic	Official	Service	Ordinary	Special	
Switzerland	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Tanzania (United Republic of)	90 Days P/A	90 Days P/A		90 Days P/A		Yes
Thailand (Kingdom of)*	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	30 Days		Yes
Trinidad and Tobago (Republic of)				90 Days		Yes
Tunisia (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	Yes
Turkey (Republic of)*	30 Days		30 Days	30 Days	30 Days	Yes
Turks and Caicos Islands	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Uganda (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
United Arab Emirates				90 Days		Yes
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland				90 Days		No
United Nations Lasse Passer	90 Days					No
United States of America	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days	Yes
Uruguay	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		Yes
Vietnam (Republic of)	90 Days	90 Days	90 Days			Yes
Virgin Islands (British)	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No
Zambia	90 Days P/A	90 Days P/A		90 Days P/A		No
Zimbabwe	90 Days	90 Days		90 Days		No

Special Notes	
Diplomatic,Official and Service Passport holders do not pay VISA FEES	
Angola (Republic of)	Each visit not to exceed 30 days
Germany (Federal Republic of)	Except diplomatic passport holders who are due to assume duty at the Embassy and Consulates of Germany in South Africa, require visas for accreditation purposes
United States of America	Except diplomatic passport holders who are due to assume duty at the Embassy and Consulates of the USA in South Africa, require visas for accreditation purposes
P/A	P/A indicates per anum or per calendar year
Belize*	Please note that countries marked with an asterisk are only subject to visa fees if the intended visit exceeds thirty (30) days:
Benin (Republic of)*	
Gabon (Republic of)*	
Hong Kong (SpecialAdministrative Region of China)*	
Republic of Korea (South Korea)*	
Thailand (Kingdom of)*	
Turkey (Republic of)*	