

Johannesburg Trip 2025

TRIP OVERVIEW

The goal of this trip is to connect you directly with South African people, culture, and DANCE! We will have 5 days of dance classes with local specialists of a variety of South African styles including Amapiano, Pantsula, Bacardi and more!

Duration: 10 days & 9 nights

Dates: 2/15/2025-2/24/2025

Included in Trip Cost

- Lodging (double and single rooms)
- 13 dance classes
- 3 outings/activities
- Welcome dinner (catered)
- Transportation to classes and planned activities
- Access to me as a support and liaison on the ground and for trip planning
- Information Guide including recommended activities, restaurants, etc.
- Photography & Videography

Outings

- Tour of Soweto with local guide
- Safari with giraffe feeding (lions, hyenas, zebras, and more!)
- Market day to Rosebank Market & Fourways Farmer's Market

Itinerary Overview

Here is a preliminary itinerary to give you a sense of the trip's flow. Final times and activities will be specified closer to the trip dates.

Sat 2/15

Arrival + Welcome Dinner

Sun 2/16

Soweto Tour & Shopping (Grocery/Pharmacy/ATM) (evening free)

Mon 2/17-Fri 2/21

Dance Camp Classes 11am-5pm / Free time at night

Sat 2/22

Safari in the morning (afternoon/evening free)

Sun 2/23

Rosebank Market + Fourways Farmers Market (evening free)

Mon 2/24

Departure

You cover:

- Flight to Johannesburg
- Transportation to and from the airport
- Food and alcohol
- Tips for guides + any house assistance
- Any other activities
- Transportation outside of our itinerary
- Additional electricity fees (potential)
- Travel medical insurance (more info to be shared)

Trip Fees

Single Room \$1474

Double Room \$1249

Payment Schedule and details

Deposit + Second Payment should be paid via PayPal

Third and final payment should be paid in \$100 US dollar bills, in person when you arrive

1. Friday, June 21st: Express commitment by submitting registration form
2. Sunday, June 23rd: Trip deposit (\$450 - \$150 is non-refundable)
3. Sunday, November 17th: Second payment (SR \$524 / DR \$499)
4. Saturday, February 15th: Final payment (SR \$500 / DR \$300)

Registration

Due to high demand of interest, we will have a 2-step process to register for this trip. We will give priority to ADS students and also first come first serve.

Your registration instructions:

- 1) When you are ready to commit to the trip, fill out this registration form to hold your spot in line. Commitment deadline is Friday, June 21st
- 2) We will contact you on June 23rd with registration confirmation and then you can submit your deposit.

Additional budgeting

I have put together some estimated costs for you to consider in your trip budgeting. These are estimates based on my experience, you may have different preferences or spending habits - please keep that in mind. But at least, this is a start!

1USD = 18.63ZAR (this changes daily)

For quick math on the spot I use \$1USD = \$20R

- Airfare: \$1200-1800
- Food: \$200-450
- Uber Eats: average orders range \$10-20
- Ubers: you can expect to pay about \$1-2 per mile

Additional budgeting (cont)

- Clubs: typically free entry. If there is a cost usually less than \$10. However, if you're interested in a table/booth, that comes with the cost of a bottle. Bottles are typically around \$150-200 and can be split by multiple people. This can be \$25-50/person depending on the size of the group.

Travel Logistics

- US Passport is required. We will request a copy of your US passport with at registration or proof that your passport is in process. **Passport should be valid through the end of March 2025.**
- US citizens do not require a visa to travel to South Africa for less than 90 days.
- [Immunizations](#) - no requirements from the US, but some recommendations
 - If you want to be extra careful, you can book a travel consultation with a doctor who can go through the immunization info with you at greater detail
 - <https://kattermans.com/travel-consults/>
- Getting sick/having medical concerns
- Travel medical insurance - \$20-120 (working on securing a group rate)

Flights

You are responsible for booking your own flight to arrive in Johannesburg by February 15th, 2025. We will have a welcome dinner that day, so it's recommended to find a flight that arrives by 4pm if possible. If not, we will save you a plate!

- O.R. Tambo International Airport
- Arrive by or as close to 4pm on Saturday 2/15
- Airlines: strongly recommended to use a major airline for peace of mind if there are any flight issues. Also for reduced jet lag and fatigue, less stops and shorter travel duration is desired. I know this can also be more expensive, but I keep these things in mind!
 - I prefer Delta, Air France, British Airways (but there are many more great airline options! Doing a quick Google search of an airline can give you a sense of its reviews with customers).
- Cost \$1200-1800

> Once we have the final group confirmed, I will help to coordinate with you all around arrival. If there are folks coming in at the same time, we might be able to pool transportation from the airport to the houses.

Airport Arrival and Departure Transportation

Arrival

- Booked taxi (\$20-30): Can book online and a driver will meet you inside the airport with a sign, help you with your luggage and take you to the house. I have always used [booking.com](#). Can click this link or look for the "Airport Taxis" tab.
- Ubers: available and a cheaper option; you'll find a specific area in the airport for Uber pickup. If you chose this option, make sure cell phone will work upon arrival.

Departure: Uber

Lodging

- Looking in neighborhoods like Rosebank, Sandton, Thought Estate (North Joburg)
- Amenities to focus on: washer/laundry option, fans or AC, pool, wifi, hot water
- Water: we have experienced water outages and hot water outages. Hopefully this won't happen, but be mentally prepared for it just in case!
- Electricity backup for loadshedding: we will choose housing that has backup generators to avoid prolonged periods at home without electricity. However, please be mentally prepared to experience some time without electricity.

What to bring:

- Outlet adapter (US to South Africa):
https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07ZNXK7GH/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_search_asin_title?ie=UTF8&th=1
- External Battery Pack (in case of loadshedding or longer periods out and about)
- Clothes: spring and summer clothing, think warm sunny days, breezy nights, and some heavy rain days
- Any medicine you want to have on hand (can also purchase at local pharmacy)
- Copy of passport
- Insect Repellent (mosquitos can be bothersome some days)
- Comfortable purse/fannypack/satchel that also feels secure on your body
- Travel pillow/earplugs/eye mask for comfort sleeping [Travel pillow I use](#)
- Prescription or any preferred medications
- [Liquid IV](#) + Magnesium (good for muscle recovery)

Traveling internationally

- Flexibility is hugely important when traveling internationally. In my experience, South Africa can be a fairly easy place to travel, as there are many aspects that still feel close to Western culture and lifestyle. However, it is still a different country and that means we can feel out of our element at the least.
- I recommend mental preparation for some level of discomfort - whether it be the climate, the culture, not having access to the same things you're used to...if you prepare for that, it will be easier to manage emotionally when it comes

Group Travel

Flexibility and consideration for others around you is **CRUCIAL** in order to make group travel comfortable. If you think you may struggle with sacrificing some personal preferences to work with the group as a whole, this may not be the right fit for traveling to South Africa.

Please reflect and be honest with yourself before committing to this experience.

Everyone's actions will impact the other. Especially given that while in Johannesburg, for safety reasons, I am going to recommend people to stick together at least with one other person, this will increase the need to work together and be considerate to one another.

While in Johannesburg

Safety

- Johannesburg is known for being a high crime city, and extra caution should be used especially when out in the city.
- Recommended to also travel in groups. Will likely ask y'all to use a buddy system!
- Recommended to be vigilant about personal belongings.
- Recommended to be mindful of alcohol / marijuana use when out in the city.

Getting Around

- It is recommended to use Ubers and to be extra cautious as you are traveling.

Shared housing

- Sharing space will require consideration and compromise. Flexibility is huge.
- Cleaning after yourself in all shared spaces.
- Sharing any responsibilities with others around you.
- Being mindful that people need time to recharge, to be alone and be quiet.
- We recommend having conversations as a house around noise level and any other shared housing interests.

Climate

Plan for warm weather, heavy rain, and cool breeze. February is one of the most pleasant times to visit South Africa because it falls within the summer. South Africa experiences summer from October to May. With a comfortable daily average of 66°F, a holiday to South Africa in February is perfect if you prefer a warm climate that isn't overly hot or humid. In warmer parts, temperatures often reach highs of 84°F in February with lows of 60°F after dark.

Best way to make purchases / carry money

Credit and debit cards are widely accepted around the country in restaurants, clubs and markets. If you want to have South Africa rand on hand, the best way to get this currency would be at an ATM; these transactions will come with an ATM and conversion fee so it's beneficial to maximize the amount of money you want from each withdrawal.

The day after you arrive, we will go to an ATM so you can pull any needed cash out.

Double check with you bank or credit cards about the cost of use. Some cards do not have foreign transaction fees, others do. Also, you may need to alert your card company or bank that you are traveling to avoid any disruption in use of your card.

Phone service

Double check your phone carrier to understand if you can use your phone while in SA. There are sometimes travel plans that carriers provide. There is also an option for an eSIM that will make local calls possible.

Jet Lag

Jet lag is a real thing! For me, I typically experience worse when traveling East (to Europe/Africa) than when coming West (back to Seattle). Here is an article talking more about jet lag and ways to work around it. If you are planning to come to South Africa only for the 10 day trip, I strongly recommend implementing some of these strategies to try and reduce jet lag symptoms. <https://www.sleepfoundation.org/travel-and-sleep/how-to-get-over-jet-lag>

Food, water and dietary restrictions

I found food offerings in South Africa to be diverse and easy to navigate preferences. The last thing we want is to be sick from food when traveling! If you have specific limitations, or just tend to be a little more sensitive, keep that in mind. We will have two grocery store trips built into the itinerary, so if you prefer to make more of your own meals, you'll definitely have that option. As far as restaurants, there are lots of great food options that will feel familiar (American, European and Asian cuisine options are plentiful). We can also safely drink the water! If you prefer bottled water, that option is there as well.