

Meet South Africa, A Variety of distinct ecosystems

South Africa is diverse in its offering with a story at every turn that young and old flock to different parts of the country eight thousand six hundred and seventy-six (8676) Turkish tourists in fact, between Jan – Jul 2018) to escape from their normal routine lives and immerse themselves in nature, culture, and adventures that South Africa can provide. Tourism is a significant contributor to the South African economy and a key stimulant for job creation. The world travel and tourism council forecast that the sector will contribute R424.5bn to the overall South African economy in 2018 - about 3% more than in 2017. Given this importance, South African Tourism has a 5 in 5 strategic goal of adding four million more international tourist arrivals in 5 years. A total of 42 042 970 travellers (arrivals and departures) entered or departed South Africa in 2017 showing an increase of 0,5% from the 2016 volume of 41 817 933 and South African tourism hope to add to this number in 2018 with more Turkish tourists.

The name Nelson Mandela is often associated with South Africa. This well-known international icon was a father of the South African nation who left a legacy of reconciliation. Born a century ago, on the 18th July 1918 the nation rallied together this year to celebrate his life. Not only was he the first black president of South Africa after many years of imprisonment because of his fight against apartheid, but Nelson Mandela also won one of the most recognised awards internationally, the Nobel Peace Prize, and ensured free and fair democratic elections for South Africa. He went on to become one of the world's most eminent people to have lived.

One of the 20th century's most influential freedom fighters, Mandela emerged from nearly three decades in prison to become South Africa's first democratically elected president and help the country's transition to a post-apartheid regime. While the Nobel Peace Prize winner achieved prominence for defeating White minority rule in South Africa, Mandela also pursued a variety of other social causes. Among them: pushing for women's rights, delivering better opportunities for impoverished rural children and promoting scientific research throughout Africa — on top of serving as a symbol for civil rights movements worldwide. Even after his passing in 2013, Mandela remains a source of inspiration for generations of future leaders. 2018 marks the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela. This provides a unique opportunity for people around the world to reflect on his life and times and to promote his legacy. By any measure Nelson Mandela's impact, both locally and globally, has been unparalleled.

In honour of Nelson Mandela's centenary, the South Africa travel and tourism industry has placed its focus on boosting local tourism by putting emphasis on domestic tourism initiatives which are cohesively positioned through the celebration of Madiba's 100-year centenary.

From the rolling hills of the Eastern Cape to the roaming wildlife of the Kruger National Park, South Africa is an untapped wonderland of unforgettable experiences.

International tourists wishing to celebrate Mandela's legacy in South Africa can participate in various Nelson Mandela tours which usually includes a visit to Robben Island and a visit to

Soweto. A free App developed by South African Tourism in conjunction with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, Madiba's Journey, outlines more than 27 places of historic significance across the country that help to tell his story. These locations include the site where Mandela was captured in KwaZulu-Natal. The Madiba's Journey App will enrich tourists' quest as they walk in the footsteps of one of the world's greatest icons, Nelson Mandela.

The South African coastline stretches more than 2 500 kilometres and boasts some of the most spectacular beach landscapes in the world and has become one of the ecosystems that tourists wish to visit. To name a few; Jeffreys Bay, home of the best right hand surf-break in the world! International surfers flock to catch the legendary waves in this, a paradise of sunshine, aloes, dolphins, shells, perfect points & classic reefs. Coffee Bay where tourists are presented with a choice of some of the most fascinating cultural experiences and stunning natural *attractions*. Port St. Johns is a charming coastal town that attracts visitors from near and far. It is known as "The Jewel of the Wild Coast".

The Mother City – Cape Town - has so much to offer, with a huge array of experience, attractions and the best views from the Table Mountain Cableway, a unique and 87-year old method of seeing the wonders of the city. Travel up to the summit of the majestic flat-topped mountain and be astounded by vistas of the Mother City, Robben Island and the Peninsula.

Turkish tourists have taken to adventure holidays in a big way. The expansive portfolio of adventure offerings makes it the perfect getaway for tourists from across the globe especially because of the diverse terrain and temperate climate for outdoor activities.

South Africa offers world-class climbing, surfing, diving, hiking, horseback safaris, mountain biking, river rafting – and just about any other extreme activity you can name and all supported by dedicated and authorised operators.

With 11 official languages and multiple ethnic groups that call South Africa home. The country is known as the rainbow nation - It's a metaphor for the coming together of all of the different people who live in South Africa. For example, the indigenous KhoiKhoi and San were the early artists of South Africa as can be seen in the wonderful rock art across the country. The San, known as "Bushmen" were extraordinary hunters and trackers, and their tracking skills are still invaluable in the fight against poachers. The Zulu traditional culture, well known for the ferocity of its shield-bearing warriors, its beadwork and basketry and the beehive grass huts on the KwaZulu-Natal hills.

Additionally, South Africa has been ranked one of the top 10 most Muslim-friendly travel destinations for 2018 among non-organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries in the annual MasterCard-Crescent Rating Global Muslim Travel Index (GMTI). Cape Town has a rich Muslim heritage, with Cape Malay Muslims accounting for a quarter of the city's population. South Africa's oldest mosque is also located here and is 200 years old.

South African Tourism will embark on the 'Learn SA Roadshow' on 29 January 2019 in Turkey, to coincide with their participation at EMITT (East Mediterranean International Tourism and Travel Exhibition) from 31 January to 03 February 2019 as they want to welcome Turkish tourists with open arms to South Africa and help raise awareness about everything that the diverse country has to offer. A South African holiday is an affordable option for Turkish tourist as there are various deals, updated daily for short, medium and long holidays in South Africa.

Turkish Airlines offers direct services from Turkey to South Africa.