

OIE Information & Travel Cheat Sheet

Country:

South Africa (ZA)

Sex & Dating

- South Africa's law protects gender equality
- Communication is typically informal, similar to dating although gender roles may still be present
- Be attentive and sensitive to colonial and apartheid legacies in political discussions

Alcohol & Drugs

- Legal age to buy/consume alcohol: 18
 - Current policy debate over whether to change age to 21
- Cannabis (marijuana) use is technically legal for adults in private settings although can carry punishable fines / jail for "inappropriate" use

LGBTQIA+ Culture

- ZA is, to date, the only African country to legalize same-sex relations
- LGBTQ rights are guaranteed
- Prominent LGBTQ scenes in urban cities
- Resources
 - Rainbow SIG
 - OutRight Action International

Cultural Customs and Norms

- Population: 59.4 million
- Currency: Rand
- 11 Official Languages: Ndebele, Pedi, Sotho, Swati, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa, Zulu, Afrikaans, and English
 - English used in governance institutions
- Majority of South Africans identify as Christian

Resources

10111 Police and Fire / **10177** Ambulance

+27 Country Code

- International SOS
 - DU Membership Number: 11BSGC000067
 - Phone: 215.942.8478 / Website: [internationalsos.com](https://www.internationalsos.com)
- Student Support Program (My SSP): 24/7 Mental Health Support
- U.S. Department of State Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP): travel.state.gov



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This is meant to be a helpful resource for students in selecting, understanding, and preparing for their time abroad. There is no intent to discriminate, generalize or stereotype the country or culture with the information provided here. A variety of sources, both formal and informal, were researched to gather this information.