



Tayo Solagbade and the Self-Development Academy(SDAc) Ltd present...

Discovering South Africa!

Niall Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of UNILEVER once said “South Africa has extraordinary potential. I am convinced that the twenty-first century could well be the century for Africa, with South Africa leading the pack.”

If I ever had any doubts about the accuracy of Mr. Fitzgerald’s pronouncement, they were quickly erased when I read through the contents of a package circulated by the **South African Department of Trade and Industry(DTI)**. The package came from a function recently hosted by South Africa’s DTI at Abuja – Nigeria’s Federal Capital Territory . The South Africans have launched an aggressive drive to attract tourists and businesses into their country. And they are going about it, in a manner that attests to their commitment to actualise a vision as grand as that proposed by Fitzgerald.

If you plan on making the best of your visit to South Africa, this report – prepared using the materials in the DTI’s pack as references - should get you off to a good start.

Entering South Africa...

Johannesburg International Airport(JIA) – also known as the Gateway to Africa – has six terminals, which played host to over 11 million passengers in 2001 alone, making it the busiest airport in South Africa.

To elaborate, more than 500 direct flights are conducted each week by more than 50 different airlines, to 57 destinations outside South Africa from JIA. This busy scenario is replicated domestically, as over 900 domestic flights are available per week to 20 destinations within South Africa.

Below are some tips you’ll find useful for your travel preparations, as well as when you arrive in the country...

1. Getting Information: You can get airport and tourism information at JIA’s Terminal 2 information counter.

2. Facilities consistent with those found in most other world-class airports are also readily available. A few are highlighted below..

a. Banking and Bureau de Change facilities will be found in terminals 1, 2 and 6. There, you will be able to exchange Traveler’s cheques and foreign currency notes in all major currencies. Outside the airport(i.e. generally in SA), banks open Mondays to Fridays from 0900 to 1530 hours and on Saturdays 0900 to 1100 hours. Further, ATMs are widely available in most towns.

b. VAT Refund: Certainly worth keeping in mind is the **14% value added tax refund**, which you can claim on most purchases you make - if the total value of your purchases exceeds **R250-00**. VAT offices will be found at the airports, border posts and harbors. Keep in mind however, that to get the refund, you must produce the following: an original tax invoice, a completed VAT 255 form as well as the purchased goods.

c. JIA also has a **duty free shopping** facility reputedly second in size only to its equivalent in London’s Heathrow Airport. On sale are rare and unique African handicrafts, curios etc – which sometimes have unusual items like a “Zulu love letter” attached to them!

d. Medicals: Visitors are advised to obtain travel insurance to cover any medical expenses they might incur - as South Africa has no national health scheme. For those who might choose to visit the wine producing Western Cape region (<http://www.capetourism.org>), it should be reassuring to learn that the region is actually

This report is freely available to anyone interested in African travel/tourism. Pass it around free to your friends, colleagues or anyone you know will find the information it contains useful.

malaria-free, and has no inoculation requirements!

e. At the airport, other **general facilities** exist such as: A 24 hour food hall, automatic teller machines, travel agents, restaurants/bars, a Chapel, Muslim prayer room, medical services/Pharmacies, a post office etc, public phones in all terminals as well as public and private transport facilities.

f. Accommodation: 500 m from the airport is the Johannesburg International Holiday Inn. Then there is the 5-star Airport Inter-Continental Hotel. As you go into the city and out to the regions, there are lodges, hideaways, ranches etc offering affordable accommodation. Detailed visitor guides obtainable from the airport should prove useful in locating one suited to your tastes or needs.

g. Communication: You can get secure access to broadband Internet (or Corporate LAN) connection at JIA's Terminal 6. So even when you're far away from home or office, you will be able to access your information/work whenever you choose. And if you use wireless cards in your Laptops or Palmtops, you are assured of access to dial up facilities in the public lounge. The needs of non-card users are also catered for at a business facility in JIA's Terminal 6, which is equipped with Ethernet links for dial-up. Lastly, all restaurants and stores within JIA's terminals are reported to be enabled with wireless LAN connections.

HELP: In case you need a little help while at the airport, a useful number to call would be that of the **Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) Help Desk on (011) 921 6262.**

Places to Visit

I'll highlight certain destinations you may want to include in your visit to South Africa – that should make it even more memorable and pleasurable.

a. For Nature/Animal Lovers – Visit The Kariba Ranch

Just 30 minutes from the JIA is an ostrich farm located on the Klipriver called the "**Kariba ranch**". To visit, you'll have to book an appointment. What you get is a guided tour into all aspects of ostrich farming. If you're going with the kids, they'll certainly be thrilled by the ranch's "animal touch farm for children". Add to this the unique opportunity to see the ranch's arts and crafts workshops, artists studios, as well as hand-made arts and curios, and you get what the ranch promises will be a wonderful outing for the whole family!

Visit the Kariba Ranch at 35 Donald Road, Glendonald. You'll find them online at **www.karibaranch.co.za**. You can also call **082-785-7686 or 083-777-0281 or 082-569-3299.**

b. Welcome to Tshwane/Pretoria!

The **Tshwane Tourism Association** has produced a 2002-2003 **visitors guide**, which gives invaluable tips on how to get around the city. In it are details about this city, plus adverts by operators of interesting visitors' destinations, resorts etc.

The City of Tshwane/Pretoria (the Jacaranda City of South Africa) is the diplomatic capital - boasting over 100 embassies and foreign missions - of South Africa. This makes it the base for foreign trade and liaison with political decision-makers.

Tshwane is a metropolitan city located about 48 km from the Johannesburg International Airport, in the Gauteng province – which includes Pretoria. Apart from a unique blend of historical and 21st century modern architectural styles, Tshwane also boasts of a heritage of great history, culture and natural resources.

For instance there is the **220,000 year old Tswaing meteorite crater** - which is one of a number of world famous archeological sites. Then there are nature reserves and zoos (Aquarium and reptile houses for example); impressive museums and heritage sites; plus world class sporting facilities that regularly host famous international sport stars. These and

many others serve to make the city of Tshwane a worthy destination for every visitor to South Africa.

HELP? If you need help to get to (or while in) Tshwane, the Tshwane Tourist Information Centre can be reached on **+27(12) 37-4337/337 4430**. Their e-mail address is **wouterk@tshwane.gov.za** and on the web: **www.tshwane.gov.za**.

MORE HELP: Also at your service is an innovative outfit called “Support Services For Business Visitors and Shoppers to South Africa”. Their services include organizing all aspects of your visit including travel and accommodation, in addition to providing services relevant to your unique business or shopping interests. An offer certainly worth looking worth considering, especially if you’re visiting for the first time, or have a lot you plan to do while in the country. You’ll find them at **www.tshwanevisitors.co.za**. Their email address is **ibv@indula.co.za**. On telephone, they can be reached via **:(+27)-(0)12 346 3016 or +(27)-(0)82 577 7512**.

Enjoy your visit to Tshwane!

c. Take “A Trip Through The Countryside” Visit The Vaal Meander.

The Vaal Meander is located in the greater Southern Gauteng region. It was “created” by some local artists and crafters. The objective was to bring stressed city dwellers from Johannesburg out into the Vaal Meander countryside, to see the craftsmen ply their trade. There’s a lot to be seen in a day’s visit - and if you plan to stay longer, there’s a lot more! Among other things, this region is home

to a host of outdoor adventure centers, sporting facilities, romantic wedding centers and a number of interesting historical sites. For those with adventurous spirits, you might want to have an “**Extreme Experience**” by going on a “**Seals Adventure**”(E-mail: **jcseals@spiritlife.org.za**, Tel: **(016)423 1147/8**, Cell: **083 528 1344**). There you’ll engage in many challenging exercises (like mountain climbing) and learn discipleship, teamwork, leadership etc.

Antiques; Arts and Crafts; Accommodation; Outdoor Adventure; Tea Gardens; Restaurants; Weddings and Conferences. All these and more you can get at the Vaal Meander. Visit **www.vaalmeander.co.za** to learn more.

d. Shopping at Menlyn Park

Menlyn Park is described as South Africa’s “premier shopping and entertainment destination”. Located about 30 minutes drive from Johannesburg in Pretoria, it offers an impressive mix of shopping and entertainment facilities. There are more than 300 stores and 6000 parking bays. The park’s **IMAX Theatre** offers entertainment, private screenings (for corporate functions, product launches and birthday parties), and facility rentals (for PowerPoint presentations etc). In the Menlyn Park, you get to shop at international brand name stores; watch the latest movies in romantic settings and/or enjoy great meals at classy restaurants. Visit them online at **www.menlynpark.com**.

Bon Voyage to you!

And that’s it. Hopefully this report has helped you gain better appreciation of what to expect on a visit to South Africa. Personally, I’ll say one thing is clear: If there’s any place on the African continent, where things appear to be fully set to make your visit worthwhile, it’s South Africa!

So, what are you waiting for? Have a great trip!!

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Tayo Solagbade is a **Self-Development Specialist** and **Performance Consultant**. Through the **SDAc**, he helps individuals and groups of all types develop and implement strategies towards achieving their set goals at work/in life. The SDA also has a **strategic objective of nurturing in Nigerians, and other Africans, a greater pride in marketing the country/continent to the rest of the world** – hence this article.

NEW! On 31st October 2005, the SDAc launched an online awareness campaign about a solution that enables any African publish a physical book at zero cost, and sell it online to earn income. Read Tayo’s latest article titled **A “System” That Can Produce Millionaire African Writers** at <http://www.spontaneousdevelopment.com> for details.

This report is freely available to anyone interested in African travel/tourism. Pass it around free to your friends, colleagues or anyone you know will find the information it contains useful.