



PLAN • PREPARE • TRANSITION



THE SOUTH AFRICA RELOCATION *Starter Blueprint*

YOUR GUIDE TO RELOCATING
WITH **CLARITY, CONFIDENCE & PURPOSE**



PLAN WELL.
MOVE CONFIDENTLY.
LIVE PURPOSEFULLY.



CLARITY
Know Your
Why



PREPARATION
Plan With
Confidence



TRANSITION
Move With
Peace



INTEGRATION
Build Your
New Life



FREEDOM
Design Your
Future



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Author of Africa in Me: My Cape Town

Presented by Gifts of Joy Travel & Events

How to Use This Guide

Welcome

This workbook was created to help simplify your South Africa relocation journey with practical guidance, planning tools, and real-life insights to help you move with clarity and confidence.

Use this guide at your own pace and revisit each section as you prepare for your transition.

This is not a book. It is a working guide.

Think of it as a relocation planner and road map, something you write in, refer back to, and use actively as you move through the process of exploring, planning, or moving to South Africa.

Inside you will find:

- Step-by-step instructions for every major decision
- Real numbers, real costs, and real timelines
- Checklists you can print and use immediately
- Worksheets to track apartments, budgets, and contacts
- **Tanya's Tip** boxes with personal insights from someone who has done this
- **Common Mistakes to Avoid** based on real experience
- A full 90-Day Relocation Planning Timeline at the end

TANYA'S TIP

I have been to South Africa, hired an immigration lawyer, met with realtors, opened a bank account, and tested real life there. Everything in this guide comes from that experience, not from reading about it, but from actually doing it. My full story is in my book Africa in Me. This guide gives you the practical steps.

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SECTION 1 - PART I

◆ Is South Africa Right for You? ◆

Travel vs. Relocation - They Are Not the Same

This is the most important distinction in this entire guide. If you miss it, you will make expensive and emotionally costly mistakes.

Traveling to South Africa

When you travel, South Africa shows you her best side. Your accommodation is arranged, your days are flexible, you eat at great restaurants, and you are insulated from the inconveniences of real life. You fall in love. You say "I could live here." And that feeling is real.

But that feeling is based on incomplete information.

Relocating to South Africa

Relocation means: How do I legally stay? Where do I actually live? What happens when the power goes out for four hours and I have a work deadline? How do I pay rent in rand? What if I need a doctor?

These are not problems. They are real life. And real life requires a different kind of preparation.

TRAVELING	RELOCATING
Fixed dates, hotel or Airbnb	Open-ended commitment, lease agreement
Exploring neighborhoods	Choosing one neighborhood to live in
Eating out daily	Grocery shopping, cooking, managing costs
Load shedding = minor nuisance	Load shedding = I need a backup plan
Immigration = passport stamp	Immigration = visa application and documents
Everything feels easy	Some days require patience and adaptability

TANYA'S TIP

Use your first trip as a scouting mission, not a vacation. Stay in two different neighborhoods. Shop at a grocery store. Test Uber at different times. Meet with at least one professional contact. That is how you get real information. When I had my meeting with the immigration lawyer on February 16th, it really brought things into perspective. It made me understand what it truly takes to move, not just dream about it. The paperwork, the planning, the decisions, it became real in that moment. If you're considering relocating, give yourself space to experience both sides, the beauty of visiting and the responsibility of building a life there.

Who Should Move to South Africa (And Who Should Not)

South Africa is not for everyone. That is not a negative statement, it is a practical one. Being honest with yourself early saves time, money, and disappointment.

You are a **STRONG** fit if:

- You are financially stable with income from outside South Africa (USD, pension, remote work)
- You are adaptable, you can handle systems that work differently without taking it personally
- You have done at least one scouting trip and experienced real life, not just tourism
- You are drawn to outdoor living, community, warmth, and a slower pace
- You have professional contacts already in South Africa (immigration lawyer, realtor, etc.)
- You have a long-term mindset, you are building something, not escaping something

Think carefully if:

- Your income is unstable or entirely dependent on a U.S. employer who does not support remote work
- You expect South Africa to “fix” problems you are running from, it will not
- You have never experienced living abroad or outside your comfort zone
- You are not prepared for safety awareness as a daily practice
- You expect American-speed systems and American-style customer service
- You have not yet done real research, a YouTube video is not research

TANYA'S TIP

The question is not “Can I survive in South Africa?” Most people can. The question is “Will I thrive here?” Thriving requires alignment, financial, personal, and practical. That is what this guide helps you build.

Quick Self-Assessment

Question	Yes	No	Not Sure
Do I have a stable income source in USD or from abroad?			
Have I visited South Africa at least once?			

Am I comfortable living in a place where things work differently?

Do I have at least 6 months of savings as a buffer?

Have I spoken to an immigration lawyer?

Am I moving TOWARD something, not away from something?

Do I have at least one trusted contact already in South Africa?

Score yourself honestly. If you answered “No” or “Not Sure” to more than three, this guide will help you get there, but give yourself more preparation time before committing.

Cost of Living Overview (USD vs Rand)

The South African rand (ZAR) is significantly weaker than the U.S. dollar, which works strongly in your favor as an American earning or spending in USD. Understanding this exchange rate is the foundation of all your financial planning.

COST EXAMPLE

Exchange rate reference (early 2026): R1 = approximately \$0.055 USD | \$1 USD = approximately R18.00 This means your \$1,000 USD becomes approximately R18,000 ZAR, a meaningful lifestyle advantage.

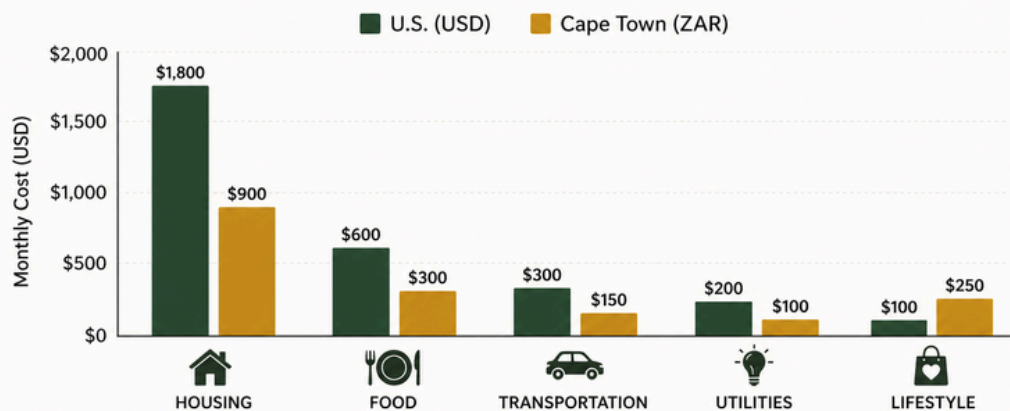
Category	Cost in Rand (Monthly)	Cost in USD (Monthly)	Notes
1-bed apartment (Sea Point)	R12,000–R20,000	\$660–\$1,100	Unfurnished; includes basic security
1-bed apartment (Camps Bay)	R20,000–R40,000	\$1,100–\$2,200	Premium beachfront
Groceries (couple)	R3,000–R6,000	\$165–\$330	Woolworths higher; Checkers more affordable
Eating out (dinner for 2)	R500–R1,500	\$28–\$83	Mid-range restaurant with wine

Uber (within city)	R80–R250	\$4.50–\$14	Depends on distance and time
Private medical aid	R2,500–R6,000	\$138–\$330	Per person; Discovery Health recommended
Gym membership	R500–R1,200	\$28–\$66	Full facility gym
Domestic worker (part-time)	R600–R1,200/week	\$33–\$66/week	Very common for expats
Electricity (prepaid)	R500–R1,500	\$28–\$83	Depends on usage and solar setup
Fiber internet	R800–R1,500	\$44–\$83	Fast fiber widely available

WHAT SURPRISED ME

What surprised me most: Fresh fruit at the market cost 10 rand per bucket, less than 63 cents. We bought mangoes, grapes, and nectarines and ate them the moment we got home. Back home the same amount would cost \$50 or more. Daily life costs genuinely less, and quality is often better.

What \$3,000/Month Gets You: U.S. vs Cape Town



While income may vary, your purchasing power can go much further in Cape Town. Many everyday expenses are significantly lower, allowing for a higher quality of life at the same budget.

Same \$3,000...
Different Lifestyle

*Actual costs may vary based on lifestyle and location.

What Americans Are Usually Shocked By

No amount of research fully prepares you for the actual experience. Here are the things Americans consistently say caught them off guard.

The Good Surprises

- How warm and polite people are, genuine warmth, not performative customer service
- The food quality! Fresh produce is noticeably better and more affordable
- How developed Cape Town is! World-class restaurants, design, infrastructure
- The beauty! Table Mountain really does look unreal in every direction
- How relaxed daily life feels! People sit with their meals, conversations happen
- Private healthcare quality! Fast, professional, and a fraction of U.S. costs
- The wine! Stellenbosch and Franschhoek produce world-class wine at local prices

The Real Adjustments

- Load shedding is real! Scheduled power cuts happen. You need a plan.
- Driving on the left! Your instincts will be wrong for the first few days
- WhatsApp is everything! It is the communication infrastructure for everything
- Things move slower! Bureaucracy and appointments require follow-up
- Safety requires active awareness! Not fear, but not autopilot
- The neighborhood you choose matters enormously! More than in most cities
- Immigration is paperwork-heavy! Twelve months of bank statements is not a suggestion

WHAT SURPRISED ME

I expected to feel like a foreigner. I felt surprisingly at home, but I still had a lot to learn. Cape Town has a way of making you comfortable quickly. Give yourself 30 days before you feel fully oriented.

SECTION 1 - PART II

◆ If You're Thinking About Moving ◆

Visa Options (Overview Only)

This is an overview, not legal advice. Always consult with a qualified South African immigration attorney before applying for any visa. What I can give you is enough to know what questions to ask.

Visa Type	Who It's For	Key Requirements	Good To Know
Tourist Entry (on arrival)	Anyone exploring	Valid passport, return ticket	90 days, no advance application needed
Financial Independence (Retired Persons)	Retirees, financially independent movers	Proof of recurring income + 12 months bank statements	Most relevant for U.S. retirees with pensions
Digital Nomad Visa	Remote workers employed abroad	Proof of remote work + income threshold + health insurance	Newer visa category - requirements evolving
Critical Skills Visa	Professionals in shortage fields	Job offer + qualifications + SA equivalent	Good for specific professions
Relative's / Spousal Visa	Spouses of visa holders	Primary holder must qualify first	Requires primary applicant to lead
Business Visa	Entrepreneurs	Business plan + investment of R5M+ in most cases	Complex - get a lawyer early

Renting vs Buying Property

Should you rent or buy in South Africa? The honest answer: rent first. Almost always.

Why Renting Makes More Sense First

- You need 6-12 months to truly understand which neighborhood suits your life
- The rental market moves fast, you can upgrade as you learn more
- Buying requires local financial credibility that takes time to build
- Non-residents typically need 50%+ cash deposit for bond (mortgage)
- Property purchase involves transfer duties, attorney fees, and a lengthy process

When Buying Makes Sense

- You have lived in South Africa for at least 12 months and know exactly where you want to be

- You have USD cash available, the exchange rate makes South African property very attractive
- You are planning a 5+ year stay or permanent relocation
- You have a trusted conveyancing attorney and real estate agent

Area	Entry Buy Price (Rand)	Entry Buy Price (USD)	Notes
Camps Bay (small studio)	R3M-R5M	\$167K-\$278K	Very small. Entry-level only.
Camps Bay (realistic lifestyle)	R15M-R20M	\$833K-\$1.1M	Proper home with space + views
Sea Point (1-2 bed apartment)	R2M-R5M	\$111K-\$278K	Accessible market entry
Gardens / Oranjezicht	R1.8M-R4M	\$100K-\$222K	Excellent value for central location
Durban / Umhlanga	R1.5M-R4M	\$83K-\$222K	Most affordable coastal option

COST EXAMPLE

Our realtor showed us four properties with pools in Camps Bay within our budget. For the first time it felt possible, not a dream, but a calculation. That moment matters. Write down your own version of that number.

Shipping Items vs Buying There

One of the most practical decisions you will make: what to bring from the U.S. and what to buy or leave behind.

Category	Ship It?	Buy There?	Notes
Clothes and personal items	YES		Bring everything, customs is straightforward
Electronics (laptop, phone)	YES		Voltage adapters needed - SA uses 220V, Type M plugs
Books and sentimental items	YES		No commercial value, minimal customs issues

Large furniture	NO	Buy there	Shipping is expensive. Takealot.com and local stores are good.
Appliances (American 110V)	NO	Buy there	Won't work on 220V without expensive converters
A specific beloved item	Depends	Depends	Calculate: shipping cost vs. replacement cost in SA
Car	Generally NO		Import duties are very high. Buy locally.

TANYA'S TIP

Electricity in South Africa runs on 220–240V, 50Hz, with Type M (round 3-pin) plugs. Your U.S. appliances run on 110V. This means most of your U.S. appliances WILL NOT WORK without a heavy-duty voltage converter, which is expensive and often unreliable. Plan to replace appliances locally.

Moving With Children & Schooling Overview

Moving with children adds layers to the process, but South Africa has genuinely excellent private schooling options that make it very viable for families.

School Types

- **South African National Curriculum (NSC) schools:** local curriculum, very good private options
- **Cambridge International Schools (IGCSE / A-Level):** globally recognized, strong academic program
- **International Baccalaureate (IB) schools:** available in Cape Town and Johannesburg
- **American Curriculum schools:** limited but available in major cities

What to Know

- Private school fees: R40,000–R120,000+ per year depending on school and curriculum
- Admission can have waiting lists, apply 6–12 months in advance
- Children under 18 MUST have unabridged birth certificate to enter South Africa
- School calendar is different from the U.S. (South African summer = December–January)

What to Do First When You Arrive (First 30 Days Checklist)

The first 30 days set the tone for your entire relocation. Use this checklist to make sure you are building the right foundation rather than scrambling at the last minute.

Week 1 - Basics First

- ☐ Get a local SIM card (Vodacom or MTN) - same day as arrival
- ☐ Download and set up: Uber, Bolt, WhatsApp, EskomSePush, Google Maps offline
- ☐ Withdraw local cash from a reputable ATM (inside a mall or bank branch)
- ☐ Confirm your accommodation is correct and secure
- ☐ Identify your nearest grocery store (Checkers or Woolworths)
- ☐ Learn your neighborhood: morning walk, note coffee shops, pharmacies, ATMs

Week 2 - Key Appointments

- ☐ Schedule immigration lawyer consultation
- ☐ Contact a real estate agent for property viewings
- ☐ Visit a private medical doctor for registration
- ☐ Visit a private dentist for registration
- ☐ Explore 2-3 different neighborhoods and compare them consciously
- ☐ Open South African bank account (Standard Bank recommended)

Week 3 - Daily Life Test

- ☐ Grocery shop at Woolworths AND Checkers - compare quality and price
- ☐ Test Uber at different times of day (morning commute, evening, late night)
- ☐ Visit a local market (Oranjezicht or similar)
- ☐ Test internet setup in your accommodation for remote work
- ☐ Experience load shedding at least once consciously - note your backup options

Week 4 - Community & Review

- ☐ Find and attend a church or community group
- ☐ Connect with at least one local or long-term expat in your area
- ☐ Review your immigration lawyer's notes and next action steps
- ☐ Make an honest assessment: Is this the right neighborhood for long-term living?
- ☐ Begin apartment search if staying beyond 60 days
- ☐ Set your 90-day goals based on everything you have learned

SECTION 2 - PART I

◆ **Planning Your Trip the Right Way** ◆

When to Visit South Africa (Seasons & Weather)

Cape Town has a Mediterranean climate, and it is not consistent within a single day. Understanding the seasons prevents the most common planning mistake: booking the wrong time for what you actually want.

Season	Months	Cape Town	Johannesburg	Durban	Best For
Summer	Dec-Feb	Hot, sunny, windy. Peak season, higher prices.	Warm, afternoon storms.	Warm and humid.	First visit, beaches, nightlife
Fall	Mar-May	Often the best weather. Less crowded.	Mild and pleasant.	Warm coastal.	Scouting trips, longer stays
Winter	Jun-Aug	Cool and rainy. Indoor season.	Dry, sunny days, cold nights.	Mild & still pleasant.	Budget travel, wine country
Spring	Sep-Nov	Beautiful and fresh. Great value.	Warming up, greening.	Warm coastal.	All-around excellent timing

TANYA'S TIP

Our trip was in February - summer. Cape Town was beautiful but windy, and some days were cold by afternoon. We layered all day. Fall (March-May) is genuinely the best time for a relocation scouting trip, great weather, fewer tourists, and you see the city functioning normally.

COMMON MISTAKE TO AVOID

Booking Cape Town in June expecting beach weather. Winter here is cool and rainy. It is still beautiful, but it is not beach season. Match your expectation to the season.

Flights & Airports - What to Expect

Getting to South Africa from the U.S. is a long journey, but it is more manageable than most people expect. Here is what to know before you book.

Flight Routes

- Most U.S. travelers fly through: New York (JFK), Atlanta (ATL), Washington Dulles (IAD), or Miami (MIA)

- Main connection hub: Johannesburg OR Tambo (JNB), where most international flights land
- Cape Town has some direct international routes, including seasonal U.S. routes
- Total travel time from the U.S. East Coast: 17–22 hours depending on connection

Airport	Code	Serves	Notes for Americans
OR Tambo International	JNB	Johannesburg	Main gateway. Large, busy. Most arrive here.
Cape Town International	CPT	Cape Town	Smaller, calmer. Better first landing experience.
King Shaka International	DUR	Durban	Usually requires JNB/CPT connection.

TANYA'S TIP

Book a direct JFK-to-JNB or IAD-to-JNB flight and then connect domestically to Cape Town on FlySafair or Airlink, South Africa's reliable budget carriers. Often cheaper than routing through Europe, and the domestic leg is only 2 hours.

COMMON MISTAKE TO AVOID

Arriving at night for your first visit. Night arrivals mean navigating a new city while jet-lagged and disoriented. Pay extra if necessary to arrive in daylight.

Entry Requirements & Immigration at the Airport

South Africa's immigration process is straightforward for Americans, IF you know exactly what to expect and what to say.

What You Need

- Valid U.S. passport (minimum 30 days validity beyond your intended stay; 6 months recommended)
- At least two blank pages in your passport
- Return flight or onward ticket
- Proof of accommodation for at least your first nights
- Sufficient funds (bank statement or credit card)
- If traveling with children: unabridged birth certificate (REQUIRED, see mistake box)

COMMON MISTAKE TO AVOID

Traveling with children and only a standard short-form birth certificate. South Africa **REQUIRES** an unabridged (long-form) birth certificate showing both parents for any child under 18. This is strictly enforced. Apply for this document weeks in advance.

CLEARING IMMIGRATION: STEP BY STEP

Step 1: Follow ARRIVALS and IMMIGRATION signs after deplaning

Step 2: Join the FOREIGN PASSPORT / VISITORS line (not the South African citizens line)

Step 3: Approach the counter calmly. Have your passport and completed arrival card ready.

Step 4: Answer questions briefly: "Tourism." "Two weeks." "I'm staying at [hotel/address]."

Step 5: Receive your entry stamp. **CHECK IT** immediately, confirm the days granted and the exit date.

Step 6: Collect luggage. Pass through customs (green channel if nothing to declare).

Step 7: Exit to arrivals hall. Your Uber, driver, or hotel transfer will be waiting.

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

Oversharing at immigration. Do NOT say "I'm exploring relocation" or "I might look for work." If you are entering on a tourist entry, your stated purpose is tourism. Keep answers short. One sentence. Done!

TANYA'S TIP

U.S. citizens typically receive 90 days on arrival. But ALWAYS check your stamp. Some travelers receive fewer days. Your exit date is the date written in your passport, not what you assumed.

Safety Tips Every American Should Know

Safety in South Africa is a real conversation, but it is not the scary conversation you may have seen online. The people who struggle are usually those who apply no awareness. The people who thrive apply appropriate, not excessive, awareness.

The Truth About Safety

- Crime is real and concentrated in certain areas, avoid those areas
- Tourist areas and expat neighborhoods are generally well-managed and monitored
- Safety is behavior-based, your choices determine most of your risk
- South Africa is NOT at war. It is not a warzone. The internet exaggerates this.

Essential Safety Behaviors

- Use Uber or Bolt for all transportation, never hail unofficial taxis
- Do not walk and look at your phone on the street, especially in unfamiliar areas
- Keep car doors locked while driving, carjackings exist, mostly in wrong neighborhoods
- Stay in recommended expat-friendly neighborhoods, especially until you know the city
- Do not wear expensive visible jewelry, watches, or carry open laptops in public
- Ask your host, hotel, or local contact which areas to avoid after dark, and listen
- Trust your instincts. If something feels wrong, it probably is.

WHAT SURPRISED ME

The scams are polite. No one grabbed my phone. Instead, someone was very friendly and helpful for several minutes before making an ask. Politeness is not always generosity. If someone you do not know is being unusually helpful, stay aware.

TANYA'S TIP

Safer, expat-friendly areas: V&A Waterfront, Camps Bay, Clifton, Sea Point, Green Point, Constantia, Century City. Areas generally not recommended unless you are with a trusted local guide: Cape Flats (Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, Nyanga, Mitchells Plain), certain parts of Philippi. Don't try to explore every area on your own your first time. Stay in well-known, expat-friendly neighborhoods, use Uber, and always ask locals or your host before going somewhere unfamiliar, especially at night.

Google 'Areas to avoid in Cape Town' before you leave home. local Facebook groups and expat forums are also excellent resources for current, area-specific safety information. Ask before you go.

Real Talk: Cape Town isn't dangerous everywhere, but it does require awareness. If something feels off, trust your instincts and remove yourself from the situation.

Emergency Numbers to Save Before You Land

Service	Number
Police (SAPS)	10111
National Emergency	10177 or 112
Netcare 911 (Private Ambulance)	082 911
ER24 (Private Ambulance)	084 124
Tourism Safety Helpline	083 123 2345

Transportation - Uber, Car Rental, MyCiTi Bus

How you move around South Africa shapes your safety, your daily energy, and your overall experience. Good news: the options are solid once you understand them.

Option	Best For	Cost Range	Safety Level	Recommendation
Uber / Bolt	All visitors and residents	R80-R250 within city	High - tracked, cashless	Use daily. Your primary option.
Private Driver	Scouting trips, full days	R800-R2,000/day	Very High - personal, known	Highly recommended for relocation scouting
Car Rental	Extended stays, day trips outside city	R600-R1,200/day	Medium - drive left, be aware	Not for Day 1. Wait until oriented.
MyCiTi Bus	Budget travel on known routes	R15-R35	Medium	Only once you know the routes well
Minibus Taxi	Not recommended for visitors	R10-R20	Lower	Avoid until very established.

TANYA'S TIP

We hired a private driver for a full day and it was one of the best decisions of our trip. He navigated for us, gave us honest local insight, helped us revisit places on our list, and made the whole day easier. A private driver for a relocation scouting trip is worth every rand.

COMMON MISTAKE TO AVOID

Renting a car on Day 1. South Africans drive on the LEFT side of the road. Your instincts will fight you at every intersection and roundabout. Give yourself at least 3 days of Uber before you consider driving yourself.

SECTION 2 - PART II

Relocation Timeline

Plan the Move. Work the Plan.

- 12-Month Roadmap
- 90-Day Countdown
- 30-Day Final Sprint
- Weekly Action Plans

12-Month Relocation Roadmap

Map every milestone from decision to arrival.

TIMEFRAME	KEY ACTIONS	NOTES / STATUS
Months 1–2	Research, Vision Clarity, Financial Audit	
Months 3–4	Savings Plan, Visa Research, Document Prep	
Months 5–6	Housing Research, Area Comparison, Budget Finalization	
Month 7	Visa Application, Lease/Airbnb Booking, Flights	
Month 8	Downsizing, Selling, Shipping Research	
Month 9	Packing, Final Appointments (medical, legal, banking)	
Month 10	Final Goodbyes, Loose Ends, Remote Work Setup	
Month 11	Departure Month - Final Prep	
Month 12	ARRIVAL · First Week Setup · Celebrate	

90-Day Countdown to Departure

Three months out - get serious.

TIMEFRAME	MILESTONE	DONE
Week 12–13 (Day 84–90)	Confirm visa status	■
Week 10–11 (Day 70–83)	Book flights, confirm housing	■
Week 8–9 (Day 56–69)	Begin selling/donating items	■
Week 6–7 (Day 42–55)	Medical/dental appointments done	■
Week 4–5 (Day 28–41)	Ship items, close US accounts/services	■
Week 2–3 (Day 14–27)	Final packing, storage unit if needed	■
Week 1 (Day 7–13)	Confirm all bookings, notify contacts	■
Departure Week	Pack carry-on, rest, travel day protocol	■

Additional 90-day priorities for me personally:

30-Day Countdown Planner

The final sprint. Every day counts.

Check each task as completed. Add your own priorities below.

- ☐ Confirm flight details and print/save e-ticket
- ☐ Confirm housing - address, contact, check-in time
- ☐ Notify bank of international travel/relocation
- ☐ Set up international phone plan or purchase SA SIM info
- ☐ Complete medical/dental appointments
- ☐ Refill prescriptions (90-day supply if possible)
- ☐ Download offline maps for Cape Town
- ☐ Download Uber, Bolt, and Checkers Sixty60 apps
- ☐ Open or confirm international bank account (Wise, Capitec, etc.)
- ☐ Finalize and pack shipping boxes
- ☐ Sell remaining items / donate to charity
- ☐ Cancel or transfer US subscriptions
- ☐ Set up mail forwarding or USPS hold
- ☐ Create emergency contact sheet (leave with family)
- ☐ Back up all digital files to cloud
- ☐ Confirm travel insurance is active
- ☐ Pack documents folder (passport, visa, lease, insurance)
- ☐ Create digital copies of all important documents
- ☐ Arrange airport transportation (both ends)
- ☐ Say your goodbyes - host a going-away gathering
- ☐ Rest and protect your energy the final week
- ☐ ARRIVAL DAY - You did it!

Weekly Action Plan

Use this template each week leading up to departure.

Week of: _____ Days Until Departure: _____

DAY	TOP PRIORITY	TASK 2	COMPLETED
Monday			■
Tuesday			■
Wednesday			■
Thursday			■
Friday			■
Saturday			■
Sunday			■

This week's biggest win:

What I'm carrying into next week:

SECTION 3

◆ Money, Banking & Cost of Living ◆

Currency & Exchange Rate - How Money Works

Understanding the rand is the first financial skill you need. Everything else, budgets, rentals, salaries, flows from this.

The Basics

- South Africa's currency: South African Rand (ZAR), written as “R”
- Approximate exchange rate (2026): R1 = \$0.055 USD | \$1 USD = ~R18
- The rand fluctuates daily, check XE.com or Google for the current rate
- As a dollar earner, you have significant purchasing power in South Africa

COST EXAMPLE

Quick mental math: Divide the rand price by 18 to get approximate USD. R900 dinner = \$50 USD. R15,000 rent = \$833 USD. R3,000 groceries = \$167 USD.

ATMs in South Africa

- ATMs are widely available at malls, airports, and most neighborhoods
- FNB, Standard Bank, Absa, and Nedbank ATMs are all reliable
- Use ATMs inside malls or bank branches, avoid isolated street ATMs •

Withdraw R1,000–R3,000 at a time, no need for excessive cash

COMMON MISTAKE TO AVOID

Accepting “Dynamic Currency Conversion” at the ATM. When the ATM offers to charge you in USD instead of ZAR, ALWAYS decline. Choose ZAR and let your U.S. bank handle the conversion. You will get a better rate every time.

How Much Money You Really Need Per Month?

This is the question everyone asks and nobody answers directly. Here is the direct answer.

Monthly Income You Need to Live Comfortably in Cape Town

- **Minimum comfortable lifestyle (1 person):** \$2,000–\$2,500 USD/month
- **Comfortable lifestyle (couple):** \$3,000–\$4,500 USD/month
- **Comfortable lifestyle with savings buffer:** \$4,000–\$5,500 USD/month (couple)
- **Luxury lifestyle:** \$6,000–\$10,000+ USD/month (couple, Camps Bay or similar)

NOTE

These are Cape Town figures. Durban is typically 15–25% less expensive. Johannesburg varies widely by area. Adjust accordingly for your target city.

TANYA'S TIP

Social Security, pension, or retirement income that feels modest in the U.S. can fund a genuinely comfortable lifestyle in South Africa. A \$3,500/month pension that feels stretched in the U.S. is excellent income in Cape Town.

Opening a Bank Account (Foreigner Basics)

Opening a South African bank account is one of the first concrete steps that turns exploration into preparation. We opened ours during our trip, and the moment it was done, South Africa felt real.

Why You Need a Local Bank Account

- Paying rent in rand without international wire fees
- Building financial credibility with landlords and service providers
- Avoiding foreign transaction fees on daily purchases
- Documentation for future visa or residency applications

Which Bank to Choose

- **FNB (First National Bank):** Most recommended for expats. Excellent app and digital banking.
- **Standard Bank:** Large network, international partnerships, solid choice.
- **Nedbank / Absa:** Reliable alternatives worth comparing.

What You Will Typically Need

- Valid passport
- Proof of South African address (lease, Airbnb confirmation, or letter from host)
- Proof of income or funds (U.S. bank statement or payslip)
- South African phone number (get your SIM card first)
- Tax reference number from home country (sometimes requested)

TANYA'S TIP

Our immigration lawyer mentioned that they can arrange for a banker to meet you at your hotel. Ask your immigration lawyer or the bank directly about mobile account opening services. I chose Standard Bank. They required basic documentation, and the process was more straightforward than I thought. You can also open your account online, visit -

NonResNewBusiness@standardbank.co.za

What stood out was how important it is to ask questions and not assume the process will be the same as in the U.S. Once everything was set up, I felt a sense of relief and accomplishment, a reminder that this transition is possible with the right preparation and mindset.

Using Credit Cards vs Cash

South Africa is more card-friendly than many Americans expect, but cash still has a role.

Situation	Use Card?	Use Cash?	Notes
Restaurants and cafes	Yes	Either	Tap-to-pay common in cities
Grocery stores (Woolworths, Checkers)	Yes	Either	Card preferred
Uber / Bolt	Yes (in-app)	No	Always cashless
Local markets and street vendors	No	Yes	Cash only
Parking attendants	No	Yes	R5-R10 standard tip
Tips at restaurants	Either	Cash preferred	Cash tips go directly to staff
During load shedding (power cut)	Sometimes fails	Always works	Keep some cash for outage days

COMMON MISTAKE TO AVOID

Traveling with only one card. If your card is blocked abroad, it can take days to resolve. Carry two debit cards and one credit card from different institutions. This is the most important pre-trip financial step.

Example Monthly Budgets

These budgets are for a couple living in Cape Town. Adjust for single living (reduce housing and food by roughly 35%) or for Durban (reduce overall by 15–20%).

Category	Budget Lifestyle	Comfortable Lifestyle	Luxury Lifestyle
Area / Neighborhood	Gardens or Observatory	Sea Point or Green Point	Camps Bay or Clifton
Rent (1–2 bed)	R10,000 (\$556)	R18,000 (\$1,000)	R35,000 (\$1,944)
Groceries	R3,000 (\$167)	R5,000 (\$278)	R7,000 (\$389)
Eating out	R2,000 (\$111)	R4,000 (\$222)	R8,000 (\$444)
Transportation (Uber/car)	R1,500 (\$83)	R2,500 (\$139)	R4,000 (\$222)
Utilities (electricity, water)	R800 (\$44)	R1,200 (\$67)	R2,000 (\$111)
Internet (fiber)	R800 (\$44)	R1,000 (\$56)	R1,500 (\$83)
Medical Aid (2 persons)	R4,000 (\$222)	R6,000 (\$333)	R8,000 (\$444)
Entertainment & activities	R1,500 (\$83)	R3,000 (\$167)	R6,000 (\$333)
Personal care & misc	R1,000 (\$56)	R2,000 (\$111)	R4,000 (\$222)
TOTAL (Rand)	~R24,600	~R42,700	~R75,500
TOTAL (USD approximate)	~\$1,367/month	~\$2,372/month	~\$4,194/month

COST EXAMPLE

These are real-world estimates, not minimums. Most expats find their actual spending lands between “Budget” and “Comfortable” once they are settled and stop eating out every meal.

TANYA'S TIP

A domestic worker (cleaning help) is very common in South Africa, even for modest budgets. Part-time help typically costs R600–R1,200 per week, affordable, and it supports local employment.

SECTION 3 - PART II

◆ Savings + Financial Planning ◆

Know Your Numbers. Fund Your Freedom.

- Relocation Savings Goals
- Monthly Savings Tracker
- Moving Cost Calculator
- Currency & Budget Planning

"Can I Afford This Move?" Worksheet

Honest numbers. Clear decisions.

CURRENT MONTHLY INCOME (USD)

INCOME SOURCE	MONTHLY AMOUNT	RELIABLE? (Y/N)
Primary Job / Salary		
Side Business / Freelance		
Investments / Dividends		
Other Income		
TOTAL INCOME		

ESTIMATED MONTHLY EXPENSES IN SOUTH AFRICA (USD)

EXPENSE	ESTIMATED USD	NOTES
Rent		
Groceries		
Transport		
Phone + WiFi		
Dining Out		
Entertainment		
Healthcare		
Travel/Exploration		
Other		
TOTAL		

Relocation Savings Goal Tracker

Track every dollar toward your move.

MY SAVINGS TARGETS

SAVINGS CATEGORY	GOAL AMOUNT	CURRENT SAVED	% COMPLETE	TARGET DATE
Emergency Fund (3–6 months expenses)				
Flight & Travel Costs				
First Month's Rent + Deposit				
Shipping & Moving Costs				
Setup Costs (furniture, SIM, supplies)				
Healthcare / Insurance Buffer				
Total Relocation Budget				

My #1 savings strategy to reach this goal:

What I am cutting or eliminating to save faster:

Monthly Savings Tracker

Track your savings month by month.

MONTH	SAVINGS GOAL	ACTUAL SAVED	DIFFERENCE	RUNNING TOTAL	NOTES
January					
February					
March					
April					
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					

Moving Cost Calculator

Don't get surprised. Plan every expense.

MOVING EXPENSE	LOW ESTIMATE	HIGH ESTIMATE	ACTUAL COST
International Flights (all travelers)			
Excess Baggage / Shipping Container			
Storage Unit (if needed)			
Packing Supplies			
Pet Transport (if applicable)			
First Month's Rent + Deposit			
Short-term Airbnb (if transitioning)			
Setup Purchases (bedding, kitchenware)			
Car Rental (first weeks)			
SIM Card + Data Setup			
Visa / Immigration Attorney Fees			
Medical / Vaccinations			
Travel Insurance			
Emergency Buffer (10%)			
GRAND TOTAL			

Currency Conversion Planning

USD to ZAR - plan smart, lose nothing in translation.

CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE: 1 USD = _____ **ZAR Date Checked:** _____

USD AMOUNT	EQUIVALENT IN ZAR	TRANSFER PLATFORM	FEE ESTIMATE
\$500			
\$1,000			
\$2,000			
\$3,000			
\$5,000			
\$8,000			
\$10,000			

My preferred money transfer method and why:

Platforms I will compare: (Wise, Revolut, Western Union, bank wire...)

Weekly Action Plan

Use this template each week leading up to departure.

Week of: _____ Days Until Departure: _____

DAY	TOP PRIORITY	TASK 2	COMPLETED
Monday			■
Tuesday			■
Wednesday			■
Thursday			■
Friday			■
Saturday			■
Sunday			■

This week's biggest win:

What I'm carrying into next week:

"Can I Afford This Move?" Worksheet

Honest numbers. Clear decisions.

CURRENT MONTHLY INCOME (USD)

INCOME SOURCE	MONTHLY AMOUNT	RELIABLE? (Y/N)
Primary Job / Salary		
Side Business / Freelance		
Investments / Dividends		
Other Income		
TOTAL INCOME		

ESTIMATED MONTHLY EXPENSES IN SOUTH AFRICA (USD)

EXPENSE	ESTIMATED USD	NOTES
Rent		
Groceries		
Transport		
Phone + WiFi		
Dining Out		
Entertainment		
Healthcare		
Travel/Exploration		
Other		
TOTAL		

Relocation Savings Goal Tracker

Track every dollar toward your move.

MY SAVINGS TARGETS

SAVINGS CATEGORY	GOAL AMOUNT	CURRENT SAVED	% COMPLETE	TARGET DATE
Emergency Fund (3–6 months expenses)				
Flight & Travel Costs				
First Month's Rent + Deposit				
Shipping & Moving Costs				
Setup Costs (furniture, SIM, supplies)				
Healthcare / Insurance Buffer				
Total Relocation Budget				

My #1 savings strategy to reach this goal:

What I am cutting or eliminating to save faster:

Monthly Savings Tracker

Track your savings month by month.

MONTH	SAVINGS GOAL	ACTUAL SAVED	DIFFERENCE	RUNNING TOTAL	NOTES
January					
February					
March					
April					
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					

SECTION 4 - PART I

◆ Where to Stay & Where to Live ◆

Best Areas in Cape Town (Overview)

Neighborhood choice in Cape Town is one of the most consequential decisions you will make. The right neighborhood makes daily life smooth. The wrong one creates friction every day.

Area	Vibe	Best For	Price Level	Notes
V&A Waterfront	Touristy, walkable, scenic	First-timers, short stays	\$\$\$	Maximum ease. Premium price.
Sea Point	Cosmopolitan, beachfront promenade	Couples, longer stays	\$\$-\$\$\$	Our top recommendation for first-timers.
Green Point	Active, central, LGBTQ-friendly	Active lifestyle	\$\$-\$\$\$	Close to everything.
Gardens / Oranjezicht	Leafy, residential, cultured	Longer stays, families	\$\$	Close to Table Mountain. Local feel.
Camps Bay	Luxury beachfront, scenic	Luxury travelers	\$\$\$\$	Beautiful. Not great for errands.
De Waterkant	Stylish, compact, central	Short stays, nightlife	\$\$\$	Good central base.
Observatory	Artsy, student energy	Budget travelers, creatives	\$	Vibrant but requires more awareness at night.

We stayed on Bree Street right in the heart of Cape Town, and it honestly set the tone for the entire experience. Everything felt walkable, from morning coffee spots to restaurants, and even just stepping outside to take in the energy of the city.

In the morning, I loved how easy it was to just go for a walk, grab coffee, and feel like I was already part of the lifestyle, not just visiting. Bree Street has a vibe, it's lively, modern, and full of great food and beautiful spaces.

What really helped us understand Cape Town was getting out beyond just one area. We used the Hop-On Hop-Off bus, which gave us a full view of the city and surrounding neighborhoods at our own pace. We also had a personal driver, which made a huge difference. He took us to places we probably wouldn't have found on our own and gave us local insight that you just can't get from Google.

If I went back, I would absolutely stay in the Bree Street area again for convenience, but I would also spend more time exploring neighborhoods like Durbanville and Constantia to compare lifestyle, cost, and overall feel.

Short-Term Rentals vs Long-Term Rentals

The type of rental you choose depends on where you are in the process, exploring, scouting, or committing.

	Short-Term (Airbnb / Booking.com)	Long-Term (Direct Lease)
Duration	1 night - 3 months	3 months - 12+ months
Price	Higher per month but flexible	Lower per month, more commitment
Furniture	Usually furnished	Usually unfurnished
Utilities	Usually included	Separately billed
Best for	Scouting trips, first 1-3 months	Once you know you're staying
Documentation	Passport and payment	Passport, proof of income, references
Security deposit	Usually 1 month	Typically 1-2 months' rent

PRO TIP

Negotiate on long-term rentals. A 12-month lease gives landlords certainty, and you should use that leverage. Asking for a 10% reduction on the listed price or for the first month's utilities to be included is completely normal.

TANYA'S TIP

For your first trip, stay in Airbnb. For your first month of relocation, stay in a furnished monthly rental while you search for your actual apartment. Never sign a 12-month lease based on a one-week visit.

How to Find an Apartment

Finding accommodation as a foreigner in South Africa is very doable - if you know where to look and what to expect from the process.

Where to Search

- **Property24.com** - South Africa's primary property listing platform (rentals and sales)
- **Private Property (privateproperty.co.za)** - another major listings platform
- **Gumtree South Africa** - for direct-from-owner rentals, sometimes better deals
- **Facebook Groups:** "Cape Town Expats", "Americans in Cape Town", "Cape Town Rentals"
- **Word of mouth** through your local driver, lawyer, or community contacts

APPLYING FOR A RENTAL: STEP BY STEP

- Step 1: Identify 3-5 properties on Property24 that meet your criteria
- Step 2: Contact the listing agent via WhatsApp (yes, WhatsApp, this is standard)
- Step 3: Schedule viewings, try to see all properties in the same area on the same day
- Step 4: Submit your application with: passport copy, 3 months bank statements, proof of income
- Step 5: Pay the holding deposit to secure the property (1 month's rent typically)
- Step 6: Sign the lease, have it reviewed by your immigration lawyer or a local contact
- Step 7: Pay security deposit and first month's rent upon key collection

COMMON MISTAKE TO AVOID

Sending a WhatsApp message and waiting for them to respond. South Africa property agents are busy. Follow up the next day. And the day after. Persistence is not rude here, it is necessary.

What Is Included in Rentals (Very Different from U.S.)

South African rentals work differently from what Americans expect. Understanding this upfront prevents frustration and unexpected costs.

Item	Typically Included?	Notes
Furniture	NO (most long-term)	Unfurnished is standard. Ask specifically.
Appliances (fridge, stove)	Usually YES	Confirm per listing
Washing machine	Sometimes	Check - many apartments have communal laundry
Water	Usually included	Some apartments bill separately
Electricity	Usually NOT	Prepaid meter is common - you buy units
Internet / Fiber	Usually NOT	You arrange and pay separately
Parking	Often extra charge	Confirm cost - can be R500-R1,500/month
Domestic worker	NO	Arrange privately (common and affordable)
Levies / HOA fees	Usually landlord pays	Confirm in lease

Alarm / armed response

Usually included in sectional title

Confirm - essential

COMMON MISTAKE TO AVOID

Assuming the apartment comes furnished. In South Africa, long-term rentals are almost always bare, no furniture, sometimes no appliances beyond a stove. Budget R15,000–R40,000 for basic furniture if you are not shipping items.

Understanding Security & Gated Communities

Security infrastructure in South Africa is not an indicator of danger, it is an indicator of a culture that takes security seriously as part of daily life.

Types of Security You Will Encounter

- **Electric fencing:** Perimeter fencing with a mild electric current. Standard in most neighborhoods.
- **Armed response monitoring:** A security company monitors your alarm and dispatches a response vehicle. Costs R400–R700/month.
- **Security gates inside apartments:** A lockable gate inside your front door, separate from the main door.
- **Access-controlled complexes:** Boom gate or intercom entry. Most expat-preferred apartments have this.
- **24-hour security guard:** Common in larger apartment buildings and complexes.

TANYA'S TIP

Prioritize properties in access-controlled complexes with 24-hour security, especially for your first 6 months. This is worth paying a premium for. It reduces your cognitive load significantly and lets you focus on enjoying your new life.

SECTION 4 - PART II

◆ Apartment + Property Search ◆

Find Your Perfect Cape Town Home.

- Apartment Comparison Worksheets
 - Property Viewing Notes
 - Questions to Ask Landlords
 - Neighborhood Ranking System

Apartment Comparison Worksheet

Compare up to 4 properties side by side.

Property Names: A: _____ B: _____ C: _____ D: _____

CRITERIA	PROPERTY A	PROPERTY B	PROPERTY C	PROPERTY D
Monthly Rent (ZAR)				
Monthly Rent (USD)				
Deposit Required				
Bedrooms / Bathrooms				
Furnished?				
Load Shedding Backup (inverter/generator)?				
Security Features				
Parking Included?				
Pet Friendly?				
Proximity to Beach				
Proximity to Grocery Store				
WiFi Available?				
Lease Length				
Agent / Landlord Contact				
Overall Rating (1–10)				

Property Viewing Notes

What you see, what you feel, what you need to know.

PROPERTY 1

Address: _____ Date Viewed: _____ Agent: _____

First impression:

Pros:

Cons:

Questions asked / answers received:

PROPERTY 2

Address: _____ Date Viewed: _____ Agent: _____

First impression:

Pros:

Cons:

Questions asked / answers received:

Questions to Ask Landlords & Agents

Never sign without asking these first.

- ☐ What is included in the monthly rent? (water, electricity, WiFi, parking?)
- ☐ How is electricity billed? Is there a prepaid meter or invoice?
- ☐ Is the property affected by load shedding? Is there a backup power source?
- ☐ What is the lease term? Is month-to-month available?
- ☐ What is the deposit amount and how is it held?
- ☐ Is the property pet-friendly? Are there restrictions?
- ☐ What is the notice period required to terminate the lease?
- ☐ Is the property managed by an agent or the owner directly?
- ☐ Are there body corporate rules or HOA restrictions?
- ☐ What security is in place? (guards, cameras, electric fence, alarm?)
- ☐ What appliances are included? Is it fully furnished?
- ☐ Has the property had any maintenance issues recently?
- ☐ What is the best way to contact you for repairs or concerns?
- ☐ Can I view the property at different times of day?
- ☐ Are there any upcoming rent increases planned?

Additional notes from my viewing:

Neighborhood Ranking Sheet

Rate each area that interests you.

NEIGHBORHOOD	SAFETY (1–5)	COST (1–5)	BEACH ACCESS	WALKABILITY	LIFESTYLE FIT	OVERALL
Sea Point						
Blouberg						
Durbanville						
Somerset West						
Camps Bay						
Cape Town CBD						
Green Point						
Hout Bay						

My top choice and why:

SECTION 04 - PART III

◆ Cape Town Area Comparisons ◆

Know Every Neighborhood Before You Choose.

Sea Point

Urban-coastal, walkable promenade, vibrant café culture, expat-friendly.

CATEGORY	RATING (1–5)	NOTES / DETAILS
Safety		
Cost of Living		
Beach Access		
Walkability		
Expat Community		
Grocery Access		
Transportation		
Luxury Appeal		
Lifestyle Fit		

What I love about this area:

My concerns about this area:

Would I live here? Why or why not:

Blouberg

Iconic Table Mountain views, beach lifestyle, more affordable, family-friendly.

CATEGORY	RATING (1–5)	NOTES / DETAILS
Safety		
Cost of Living		
Beach Access		
Walkability		
Expat Community		
Grocery Access		
Transportation		
Luxury Appeal		
Lifestyle Fit		

What I love about this area:

My concerns about this area:

Would I live here? Why or why not:

Camps Bay

Ultra-luxury strip, world-class beaches, high cost, tourist-heavy but stunning.

CATEGORY	RATING (1–5)	NOTES / DETAILS
Safety		
Cost of Living		
Beach Access		
Walkability		
Expat Community		
Grocery Access		
Transportation		
Luxury Appeal		
Lifestyle Fit		

What I love about this area:

My concerns about this area:

Would I live here? Why or why not:

Durbanville

Northern suburbs, quieter, wine farms nearby, excellent schools, suburban feel.

CATEGORY	RATING (1–5)	NOTES / DETAILS
Safety		
Cost of Living		
Beach Access		
Walkability		
Expat Community		
Grocery Access		
Transportation		
Luxury Appeal		
Lifestyle Fit		

What I love about this area:

My concerns about this area:

Would I live here? Why or why not:

Somerset West

Gateway to the Winelands, quieter, growing expat community, great value.

CATEGORY	RATING (1–5)	NOTES / DETAILS
Safety		
Cost of Living		
Beach Access		
Walkability		
Expat Community		
Grocery Access		
Transportation		
Luxury Appeal		
Lifestyle Fit		

What I love about this area:

My concerns about this area:

Would I live here? Why or why not:

Cape Town CBD

City center, walkable, business hub, mixed neighborhoods, urban energy.

CATEGORY	RATING (1–5)	NOTES / DETAILS
Safety		
Cost of Living		
Beach Access		
Walkability		
Expat Community		
Grocery Access		
Transportation		
Luxury Appeal		
Lifestyle Fit		

What I love about this area:

My concerns about this area:

Would I live here? Why or why not:

SECTION 5

Daily Life Setup

Cell Phones & SIM Cards

Getting a local SIM card is the first thing you should do after clearing immigration. Everything else, Uber, WhatsApp, confirming bookings, calling your driver, depends on having local data.

GETTING A SOUTH AFRICAN SIM: STEP BY STEP

Step 1: Go to a Vodacom or MTN store (in the airport or at a nearby mall)

Step 2: Bring your passport! ID is required for SIM registration

Step 3: Purchase a prepaid SIM (R5–R10 for the SIM itself)

Step 4: Choose a data bundle! R149 gives you approximately 2GB, R299 for 5GB+

Step 5: Have the staff activate your SIM and confirm data is working before you leave

Step 6: Download: Uber, Bolt, WhatsApp, EskomSePush, Google Maps (offline)

Provider	Coverage	Notes
Vodacom	Best in Cape Town, Joburg, Durban	Most recommended for expats. Strong signal.
MTN	Very good, slightly cheaper data	Good alternative. Competitive on data bundles.
Cell C	Decent in cities	Less reliable for rural or travel use.

We got our Vodacom SIM card during our trip at the V&A Waterfront mall, and honestly, it was a great experience. The store was easy to find, and the staff were very helpful in walking us through the different options.

Being able to use maps, call an Uber, and stay in touch without worrying about international charges made a big difference.

I would definitely recommend going to a main location like V&A Waterfront because it felt safe, convenient, and easy to get assistance if needed. Also, the mall is amazing.

Internet & Working Remotely

South Africa is more remote-work ready than most Americans expect, especially Cape Town. Fiber internet is widely available, speeds are good, and the time zone (CAT: UTC+2) works well with European clients and reasonably for U.S. East Coast mornings.

Home Internet Setup

- Fiber is available in most Cape Town suburbs (Vumatel and Openserve are the main infrastructure providers)
- Popular ISPs include Axxess, Webafrika, and RSAWeb
- Speeds: 20Mbps, 50Mbps, 100Mbps packages available. 50Mbps is plenty for remote work.
- Monthly cost: R700–R1,500 depending on speed and provider
- Installation: Usually 1–2 weeks from application to live connection

Load Shedding & Remote Work

- Power cuts mean your router goes offline unless it has battery backup
- **Solution:** A small UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) keeps your router running for 2–4 hours. Cost: R800–R2,000.
- Mobile data backup: Your Vodacom SIM can become a hotspot when home internet drops
- Many Cape Town cafés have generators and maintain WiFi during load shedding, know your backup spots

TANYA'S TIP

The EskomSePush app shows your area's load shedding schedule up to 7 days in advance. Schedule your important calls and deadlines around the schedule once you know it. It becomes second nature within two weeks.

Grocery Stores & Food Shopping

Grocery shopping in South Africa is one of the most pleasant daily surprises. Quality is high, variety is excellent, and cost is significantly below U.S. prices for most staples.

Store	Level	Notes	Best For
Woolworths Food	Premium	Quality equivalent to Whole Foods. Excellent bakery and deli.	Fresh produce, quality meats, ready meals
Checkers	Mid-range	South Africa's best everyday supermarket. Well-organized.	Weekly shopping, great value
Pick n Pay	Mid-range	Reliable, widespread. Good wine section.	Everyday staples, wine
Spar	Convenience	Neighborhood convenience stores.	Quick top-up shopping
Fruit & Veg City	Specialty	Fresh produce, bulk buys, great prices.	Fresh produce at best prices

Local Markets	Artisan	Oranjezicht, Bay Harbour, Neighbourgoods.	Weekend fresh food and community
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COST EXAMPLE

Real prices from my trip: Fresh fruit bucket (market): R10, less than \$1 USD Bottled water (2L): R12, about \$0.67 Good bottle of local wine: R80-R150 about \$4.50-\$8.50 Fresh chicken (per kg): R60-R100 - about \$3.30-\$5.50

One of my favorite moments was stopping at a local fruit stand and seeing fresh fruit for just 10 rand per bucket, that's less than a dollar. I couldn't believe it. We picked up mangoes, grapes, and nectarines, and I remember eating the grapes right there, they were so fresh and sweet.

Back home, that same amount of fruit would easily cost \$50 or more. It wasn't just about saving money, it was about quality, freshness, and lifestyle. Living well in Cape Town doesn't have to be expensive. In many ways, it actually feels better.

Healthcare & Pharmacies

Private healthcare in South Africa is excellent, modern facilities, well-trained professionals, and costs that are a fraction of U.S. prices. The key word is **private**. Always use the private system.

Your Healthcare Setup in Three Steps

- Step 1: Get international or South African medical aid BEFORE you arrive
- Step 2: Find a private GP (general practitioner) in your area within your first two weeks
- Step 3: Register at a private pharmacy (Clicks or Dis-Chem are the main chains)

Service	Cost in Rand	Cost in USD	Notes
GP consultation	R600-R1,200	\$33-\$67	Book by phone or WhatsApp
Dental check-up	R800-R2,000	\$44-\$111	Private dentists in every suburb
Blood test / panel	R400-R1,000	\$22-\$56	Walk-in pathology labs available
24-hour pharmacy	Available	N/A	Clicks and Dis-Chem, some 24h

Emergency room (private)	R2,000–R5,000+	\$111–\$278+	Always use Netcare or Mediclinic
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TANYA'S TIP

We visited a private doctor and dentist during our scouting trip, not because we needed to, but because testing healthcare access is part of smart relocation research. Both were professional, fast, and affordable. Do not skip this on your scouting trip.

Load Shedding - What It Is & How to Prepare

Load shedding is South Africa's scheduled, rotating power reduction implemented by Eskom when electricity demand exceeds supply. It is real. It is manageable. It is not a crisis once you have a plan.

The Stage System

- Stage 1: ~2 hours of power cuts per day
- Stage 2: ~4 hours per day
- Stage 4: ~8–10 hours per day (significant disruption)
- Stage 6–8: Serious - rarely reached but possible

Item	Cost	Priority	Purpose
EskomSePush app	Free	Essential	Know your schedule up to 7 days ahead
UPS (battery backup)	R800–R2,000	High	Keeps router + devices running for 2–4 hours
Headlamp / LED lanterns	R150–R400	High	Lighting during evening outages
Gas stove / portable cooker	R300–R800	Medium	Cook without electricity
Power bank (large capacity)	R400–R1,200	High	Keep phone/laptop charged
Inverter system (home)	R8,000–R25,000	Long-term	Powers most home appliances
Solar installation	R60,000–R150,000	Investment	Reduces dependence on grid entirely

TANYA'S TIP

Schedule your most important meetings, calls, and deadlines for the middle of the day or early morning. Use EskomSePush religiously. Within two weeks, you will not even think about it anymore.

WHAT SURPRISED ME

I expected load shedding to feel like a crisis. It did not. Our neighborhood had a scheduled outage one afternoon. We lit a candle, took a break, and read. By evening the power was back. South Africans have built an entire culture around it, and you will too.

My Cape Town Favorites Tracker

Discover your city - then make it yours.

GROCERY STORES

STORE NAME	AREA	BEST FOR	RATING

FAVORITE RESTAURANTS & CAFÉS

NAME	AREA	CUISINE	PRICE RANGE	RATING

COFFEE SHOPS + WORKSPACES

NAME	AREA	WIFI SPEED	VIBE	RATING

Church + Community Search

Your faith community is your foundation.

What I'm looking for in a faith community:

CHURCH / COMMUNITY NAME	AREA	DENOMINATION	SERVICE TIME	NOTES

My chosen church and why it felt like home:

SECTION 05 - PART II

◆ Your First 30 Days in South Africa ◆

You Landed. Now Set Up Your Life.

- Week-by-Week Setup Plan
- SIM, Banking, Transport, WiFi
- Safety Prep + Load Shedding Guide

First 30 Days Checklist

Hit the ground running - but stay grounded.

WEEK 1 - ARRIVAL & BASICS

- ☐ Purchase SA SIM card (Vodacom, MTN, or Telkom)
- ☐ Set up mobile data - confirm signal at your home
- ☐ Confirm WiFi at apartment - test speed
- ☐ Download Uber and Bolt apps
- ☐ Locate nearest grocery store (Pick n Pay, Woolworths, Checkers)
- ☐ Do a basic grocery run (essentials only)
- ☐ Familiarize yourself with load shedding schedule (check EskomSePush app)
- ☐ Check inverter/generator situation at your property
- ☐ Rest. Recover from jet lag.
- ☐ Explore your immediate neighborhood on foot

WEEK 2 - BANKING & ADMIN

- ☐ Open Capitec Bank account (easiest for expats)
- ☐ Set up Wise or Revolut for USD → ZAR transfers
- ☐ Register with a GP (general practitioner)
- ☐ Locate nearest pharmacy
- ☐ Begin exploring neighborhoods on your list
- ☐ Set up your home workspace (if remote working)

WEEK 3–4 - COMMUNITY & ROUTINE

- ☐ Join Cape Town expat Facebook groups and WhatsApp communities
- ☐ Find a church, mosque, temple, or faith community
- ☐ Establish a favorite morning café or routine
- ☐ Explore one new neighborhood per week
- ☐ Cook at least 3 meals at home using local ingredients
- ☐ Take a day trip (wine farms, Chapman's Peak, Boulders Beach)
- ☐ Begin building your regular routine
- ☐ Reflect and journal on your first month

Load Shedding Preparation Guide

South Africa's power grid - know before you go.

Load shedding is scheduled rolling blackouts managed by Eskom (SA's power utility). Understanding it is essential for daily life. Plan around it - not against it.

My property's load shedding backup plan:

ESSENTIAL LOAD SHEDDING TOOLS

- ☐ EskomSePush app (free - real-time schedule)
- ☐ Headlamp / portable lights
- ☐ Portable power bank (10,000+ mAh)
- ☐ Gas stove or camping stove
- ☐ Battery-powered radio
- ☐ Stock of non-refrigerated food items
- ☐ Power strip with surge protector
- ☐ Laptop charged before scheduled outages
- ☐ Work schedule adjusted around Stage 1–6 outages

My load shedding schedule strategy:

SECTION 6

Mistakes to Avoid

Mistakes Americans Make When Visiting

Overpacking the itinerary

Trying to do Cape Town + Joburg + safari in 7 days. You will feel rushed and miss the depth of any one place. One city done well beats three cities done poorly.

Wandering without a plan after dark

South Africa rewards awareness. Walking casually in an unfamiliar neighborhood after dark is a risk you don't need to take. Know where you're going and get there via Uber.

Assuming everywhere is equal

The block next to your beautiful hotel may be very different. Ask your host or hotel staff specifically which blocks and directions are comfortable after dark.

Oversharing at immigration

"Tourism." "Two weeks." "I'm staying at [address]." Done.

Carrying all your cash at once

Keep your daily spending amount in your wallet. Leave extra cash and cards in your accommodation safe.

Not confirming load shedding schedule

You arrive for a nice dinner and the restaurant has no power. Check Eskom's Push the morning of any important plans.

Mistakes Americans Make When Trying to Move

Moving before the visa is approved

Do not give notice on your U.S. housing, sell belongings, or make irreversible plans before your visa is confirmed. The process can take longer than expected.

Using travel impressions to make relocation decisions

A 10-day trip where you ate out every night and stayed in a luxury Airbnb is not reliable data for long-term living. Do a proper scouting trip before committing.

Underestimating the documentation required

Twelve months of bank statements is not optional. Start gathering and organizing financial documentation now, even if you are 12 months from applying.

Not having a South African immigration attorney

The information online is outdated, conflicting, and often wrong. One \$200 consultation with a qualified attorney is worth more than 100 hours of internet research.

Signing a 12-month lease based on one visit

Rent short-term for your first 1-3 months. Use that time to truly identify where you want to be before committing to a lease.

Moving to escape - not to build

South Africa can be a beautiful new chapter. It cannot fix unresolved financial stress, relationship problems, or personal instability. Come with a plan, not a hope.

Things I Wish I Knew Before My First Trip

TANYA'S TIP

WhatsApp is not optional. It is the communication infrastructure for everything, your real estate agent, your immigration lawyer, your contractor, your doctor. Set it up before you land.

TANYA'S TIP

The pace is slower, and then it starts to feel right. You will want things to move at American speed for the first few weeks. Then you will start to prefer the pace. Give it time.

TANYA'S TIP

Four seasons in one day is literal. We left our apartment in morning sunshine wearing short sleeves and needed a jacket by lunch. Always pack a layer. Always.

TANYA'S TIP

Scams are polite. The social engineering in South Africa is well-practiced and friendly. Someone who is excessively helpful and has been walking with you for five minutes is building to an ask. Trust your gut.

TANYA'S TIP

The food quality will genuinely surprise you. Not just in restaurants, in grocery stores and at local markets. Fresh produce, good meat, excellent wine at local prices. Daily eating becomes a pleasure, not a chore.

TANYA'S TIP

One professional contact changes everything. An immigration lawyer, a good realtor, a reliable driver, one trusted person in your corner turns a confusing process into a manageable one. Find your people early.

SECTION 06 - PART II



Packing + Departure Planning



Pack Smart. Arrive Ready.

Master Packing Checklist

Everything you need - nothing you don't.

- ☐ Passport (valid 6+ months past travel date)
- ☐ Visa documentation / approval letter
- ☐ Flight e-tickets (printed and digital copy)
- ☐ Travel insurance documents
- ☐ International health insurance card
- ☐ Emergency contact list (printed)
- ☐ Housing confirmation / lease / Airbnb booking
- ☐ Banking cards (notify bank of travel)
- ☐ Cash (USD + some ZAR for arrival)
- ☐ Phone charger + universal travel adapter
- ☐ Laptop + charger
- ☐ External hard drive / USB with important files
- ☐ Unlocked phone or backup phone
- ☐ 90-day prescription medications
- ☐ Vitamins and supplements
- ☐ First aid essentials
- ☐ Favorite skincare / hair care products (6-month supply if possible)
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes
- ☐ Light jacket (Cape Town winters can be cool)
- ☐ Professional clothing for meetings/speaking
- ☐ Casual beach and leisure wear
- ☐ Swimwear
- ☐ Workout clothes
- ☐ Sunscreen (SPF 50+)
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Hat / sun protection
- ☐ Favorite jewelry or accessories
- ☐ Small meaningful items from home
- ☐ Journal or planner

What to Sell · What to Keep · What to Ship

Declutter with intention.

ITEM/CATEGORY	SELL	KEEP	DONATE	SHIP	STORE
Furniture					
Clothing					
Books					
Kitchen Items					
Electronics					
Artwork / Décor					
Jewelry					
Office Equipment					
Vehicle					
Other:					

My plan for my current home/lease:

SECTION 06 - PART III

◆ Document Tracker ◆

Every Document. In Its Place.

Master Document Tracker

Track every critical document from start to arrival.

DOCUMENT	COMPLETED	DIGITAL COPY	PRINTED	SUBMITTED	NOTES
Passport					
Passport Copy (digital + printed)					
Visa Application Submitted					
Visa Approval / Stamp Received					
Birth Certificate					
Marriage Certificate (if applicable)					
Bank Statements (3–6 months)					
Proof of Income					
Tax Returns					
Travel Insurance Policy					
Health Insurance Documents					
Vaccination Records					
Medical Records / Prescription Letters					
Police Clearance Certificate					
Housing Lease or Airbnb Confirmation					
Flight E-Tickets					
Emergency Contacts Sheet					
Will / Power of Attorney (if applicable)					

SECTION 7

◆ Your Relocation Starter Blueprint ◆

90-Day Relocation Planning Timeline

Use this timeline as your master roadmap. Work backward from your target date.

Phase	Focus Area	Key Actions
Month 1 Weeks 1-2	Research & Mindset	Complete this guide. Take the self-assessment. Decide your target city. Set a firm exploration trip date.
Month 1 Weeks 3-4	Financial Preparation	Begin collecting 12 months of bank statements. Check passport validity. Notify your bank of upcoming international travel.
Month 2 Weeks 1-2	Professional Contacts	Find and schedule a South African immigration lawyer consultation (via Zoom is fine). Research real estate agents in your target area.
Month 2 Weeks 3-4	Immigration Consultation	Have your immigration lawyer meeting. Take notes. Understand your visa pathway and exact documentation requirements.
Month 3 Weeks 1-2	Trip Planning	Book your scouting trip flights. Choose your neighborhood for accommodation. Prepare your scouting checklist.
Month 3 Weeks 3-4	Pre-Trip Prep	Notify your bank of travel. Get your passport renewed if needed. Get travel health insurance. Download all key apps.
TRIP	Scouting Mission	Execute the First 30 Days checklist. Meet your immigration lawyer in person. See properties. Open bank account. Test daily life.
Post-Trip Weeks 1-2	Debrief	Review all notes. Assess: Are you ready? What gaps remain? Set your actual relocation target date.
Post-Trip Month 1-2	Documentation	Gather all required documents. Prepare immigration application. Secure long-term accommodation. Give notice at home.
Post-Trip Month 3	Move	Arrive. Execute Week 1-4 checklist. Build community. Breathe.

Right now, I'm in the scouting and preparation phase, and I've learned this is one of the most important parts of the entire relocation process. Your scouting trip is not just a visit, it's where everything starts to become real. This is your time to be intentional. One of the best things I did was connect with locals. They gave me real insight you can't always find online, from where to live to what to expect day-to-day. This phase helped me move from just thinking about relocating... to actually building a plan.

Budget Planner Worksheet

Use this worksheet to build your personal monthly budget estimate for South Africa.

MY SOUTH AFRICA MONTHLY BUDGET

Target city / neighborhood

Number of people in household

Target move date

Monthly income in USD

Monthly income in Rand (multiply USD by 18)

Rent budget (max 30% of income)

Grocery estimate

Eating out estimate

Transportation (Uber + occasional car)

Medical aid (per person)

Internet + phone

Utilities estimate

Entertainment & activities

Buffer / savings goal per month

TOTAL ESTIMATED MONTHLY SPEND

Notes / Questions

Apartment Search Tracker

Use this tracker when viewing properties. Complete one row per property.

[illegible]

Winner / Reason:

Questions to Ask Every Landlord / Agent

- ☐ Is the property furnished or unfurnished?
- ☐ Are utilities (water, electricity) included in rent?
- ☐ What is the load shedding stage typically affecting this area?
- ☐ Is there fiber internet available? Who is the provider?
- ☐ What security is included? Is there armed response?
- ☐ What is the deposit amount and how is it held?
- ☐ What are the lease break terms if I need to leave early?
- ☐ Are pets allowed?
- ☐ How is maintenance handled?

Packing Checklist for South Africa

For a scouting trip (2-4 weeks). Adjust quantities for a longer stay.

Documents (carry-on only)

- ☐ Passport (check expiration dates - 6 months beyond travel dates
- ☐ recommended) Printed copy of return flight confirmation
- ☐ Printed proof of accommodation for first nights
- ☐ Travel insurance documentation
- ☐ 2 extra passport photos (useful for SIM registration, bank applications)
- ☐ Unabridged birth certificate (if traveling with children under 18)
- ☐ Immigration lawyer contact details

Electronics

- ☐ Laptop + charger
- ☐ Phone + charger
- ☐ Universal travel adapter (Type M for South Africa , 3 round pins)
- ☐ Power bank (high capacity recommended)
- ☐ Portable WiFi hotspot (optional backup)

Clothing (Cape Town Summer / Fall)

- ☐ Light layers for warm days (shorts, t-shirts, dresses)
- ☐ Medium jacket or fleece (required, even in summer, evenings get cold)
- ☐ Rain jacket (compact, packable, Cape Town winters are rainy, other seasons unpredictable)
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes (Cape Town involves a LOT of walking)
- ☐ Dressier options for restaurants, church, or events
- ☐ Swimwear (beaches everywhere)

Health & Pharmacy

- ☐ Enough prescription medication for your entire trip + 2 weeks buffer
- ☐ Basic OTC kit: pain relief, antihistamine, antidiarrheal, upset stomach medication
- ☐ Travel health insurance card and emergency number
- ☐ Sunscreen (SPF 50 - Cape Town sun is strong)
- ☐ Mosquito repellent (especially if visiting game reserves or coastal Durban)

Important Questions to Ask

Questions to Ask Your Immigration Lawyer

- ☐ Based on my income and situation, which visa pathway is best for me?
- ☐ What is the minimum income I need to qualify for the Financial Independence visa?
- ☐ Exactly which documents do I need, and in what format?
- ☐ What is the current processing time for my visa type?
- ☐ Can my spouse/partner be included on the same application?
- ☐ What happens if my application is delayed - what are my options?
- ☐ Do I need to apply from the U.S. or can I apply from within South Africa?
- ☐ How do I maintain my visa status once approved?
- ☐ What are the path-to-residency options after the initial visa?

Questions to Ask Your Real Estate Agent

- ☐ Which neighborhoods do you recommend for an American couple / family / individual?
- ☐ What is the realistic monthly rental range for my budget in that area?
- ☐ What does the security infrastructure look like in this building?
- ☐ Is fiber internet available in this property? What is the provider?
- ☐ What is included in the rent? What is billed separately?

- ☐ How does load shedding affect this area specifically?
- ☐ What are typical lease terms and deposit requirements?
- ☐ If I want to buy eventually, what would an equivalent property cost to purchase?

Questions to Ask a School (For Families)

- ☐ What curriculum do you follow? How internationally recognized is it?
- ☐ What is the current annual fee? What is included vs. extra?
- ☐ Is there availability for the relevant grade? Is there a waiting list?
- ☐ What documentation do you require for enrollment?
- ☐ How do you support international students in transitioning?
- ☐ What extracurricular programs are available?
- ☐ What is your after-school care policy and cost?

Questions to Ask a Property Manager (if using one)

- ☐ What services do you provide and what does that cost monthly?
- ☐ How are maintenance issues handled and how quickly?
- ☐ How do you screen tenants?
- ☐ What is your communication policy, do you respond on WhatsApp?
- ☐ Can you provide references from current international clients?

Notes Pages

My Immigration Notes

My Property Search Notes

My Budget Notes

My Contacts & Numbers

Questions I Still Have

My Personal Next Steps

SECTION 7 - PART II

◆ **My South Africa Vision** ◆

Dream It. Define It. Claim It.

- Why I Want to Relocate
- My Dream Lifestyle
- My Relocation Goals
- My Vision for Freedom

Why I Want to Relocate

Use this space to capture your deepest motivations. Be honest. Be bold.

In my own words, I want to relocate to South Africa because...

The life I am leaving behind:

The life I am stepping into:

My one-sentence relocation declaration:

My Dream Lifestyle

Paint the picture. What does your ideal day look like?

I wake up at _____ and my morning looks like:

My home looks and feels like:

I spend my days doing:

My evenings are filled with:

People in my life include:

What I Want More Of · Less Of

Clarity is the first step to freedom.

WHAT I WANT MORE OF	WHAT I WANT LESS OF

My Ideal Location in South Africa

Where do you see yourself settling?

Top 3 areas I am considering:

What I need to be close to (beach, city center, nature, expat community...):

My ideal neighborhood feels like:

Non-negotiables for my area:

- ☐ Safe neighborhood
- ☐ Close to grocery stores
- ☐ Beach access or views
- ☐ Good restaurants & cafes
- ☐ Strong WiFi & connectivity
- ☐ Walkable streets
- ☐ Expat/international community
- ☐ Other: _____

My Ideal Monthly Budget (ZAR & USD)

Know your numbers before you land.

EXPENSE CATEGORY	ESTIMATED ZAR	ESTIMATED USD	PRIORITY
Rent/Housing			
Groceries			
Transportation			
Dining Out			
Entertainment			
Healthcare			
Phone/WiFi			
Travel/Exploration			
Savings			
Miscellaneous			
TOTAL			

My monthly income goal while living in South Africa:

My Relocation Goals

Set them. Write them. Chase them.

6 MONTHS FROM NOW, I WANT TO:

1 YEAR FROM NOW, MY LIFE LOOKS LIKE:

3 YEARS FROM NOW, I HAVE BUILT:

My Dream Daily Routine

Design your ideal day in Cape Town.

TIME BLOCK	MY IDEAL ACTIVITY / ROUTINE
5:00 AM – 7:00 AM	
7:00 AM – 9:00 AM	
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	
9:00 PM – 10:00 PM	

My Vision for Freedom

What does true freedom look like for you?

Financial freedom to me means:

Geographic freedom means I can:

Time freedom means I get to:

The version of me who has arrived - she looks like:

SECTION 8

Journal + Reflection Pages

Process the Journey. Honor the Growth.

My Biggest Fears

Name them here so they lose their power. Fear named is fear tamed.

Date: _____

One word that captures this moment:

Lessons Learned

What has this relocation process already taught you about yourself?

Date: _____

One word that captures this moment:

What Surprised Me

What was unexpected - about the process, the country, or yourself?

Date: _____

One word that captures this moment:

My Wins This Week

No win is too small. Celebrate every step forward.

Date: _____

One word that captures this moment:

What I'm Grateful For

Gratitude keeps the heart anchored. What are you thankful for today?

Date: _____

One word that captures this moment:

New Experiences

What have you done, tasted, seen, or felt for the very first time?

Date: _____

One word that captures this moment:

Relocation Reflections

One month in, three months in, six months in - how are you really doing?

Date: _____

One word that captures this moment:

SECTION 8 - PART II

Faith + Affirmations

Faith · Fellowship · Inspiration

This move is not an accident. It is an assignment.

Faith Over Fear

You were made for this season.

"I move forward in faith, not fear."

"God's plan for my life is bigger than my comfort zone."

"I am exactly where I am supposed to be."

"I attract abundance, opportunity, and community."

"My relocation is divinely orchestrated."

"I release what no longer serves me with gratitude."

"I am building a legacy that will outlast me."

"I trust the process, even when I cannot see the outcome."

"Every door that opens is confirmation of my calling."

"I am not running away from anything - I am running toward everything."

Scriptures for New Seasons

Let the Word anchor your transition.

"For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

- Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

- Joshua 1:9 (NKJV)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

- Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV)

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

- Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

- Isaiah 43:19 (NKJV)

My Prayer Page

Bring everything before God. Nothing is too big or too small.

Date: _____

What I am trusting God for:

What I am releasing:

What I am believing for:

My prayer of gratitude:

SECTION 9

Important Contacts

Build Your Circle Before You Land.

Realtors + Housing Contacts

Fill in as you research and connect.

NAME	COMPANY/ROLE	PHONE	EMAIL	NOTES

How I connected with them:

Immigration Attorneys + Visa Contacts

Fill in as you research and connect.

NAME	COMPANY/ROLE	PHONE	EMAIL	NOTES

How I connected with them:

Medical Contacts (Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacies)

Fill in as you research and connect.

NAME	COMPANY/ROLE	PHONE	EMAIL	NOTES

How I connected with them:

Banking + Financial Contacts

Fill in as you research and connect.

NAME	COMPANY/ROLE	PHONE	EMAIL	NOTES

How I connected with them:

Emergency Contacts (Family + Friends)

Fill in as you research and connect.

NAME	COMPANY/ROLE	PHONE	EMAIL	NOTES

How I connected with them:

SECTION 10 - PART I FINAL

Goal Tracking

Set It. Track It. Achieve It.

- 90-Day Goal Tracker
- Monthly + Weekly Goals
- Relocation Milestones

90-Day Goal Tracker

Three months, three priorities, total clarity.

GOAL #1

Goal: _____ Target Date: _____

Why this goal matters:

MONTH	ACTION STEP	COMPLETED
Month 1		■
Month 2		■
Month 3		■

GOAL #2

Goal: _____ Target Date: _____

Why this goal matters:

MONTH	ACTION STEP	COMPLETED
Month 1		■
Month 2		■
Month 3		■

GOAL #3

Goal: _____ Target Date: _____

Why this goal matters:

MONTH	ACTION STEP	COMPLETED
Month 1		■
Month 2		■
Month 3		■

Monthly Goals Template

Use this page for each new month.

Month: _____ Year: _____

My #1 priority this month:

My financial goal this month:

My relocation/setup goal this month:

My personal/faith goal this month:

END OF MONTH REFLECTION

What I accomplished:

What I'm carrying into next month:

Month in one word: _____

Relocation Milestones

Celebrate every victory on this journey.

MILESTONE	DATE ACHIEVED	HOW I CELEBRATED
Made the decision to relocate		
Told my family / first person		
Opened my relocation savings account		
Reached first savings milestone		
Started my visa research		
Submitted visa application		
Received visa approval		
Booked my flights		
Signed my lease / confirmed housing		
Gave notice at work / to landlord		
Completed my packing		
Arrived in South Africa		
Completed my first full week		
Opened my South African bank account		
Found my favorite café		
Made my first local friend		
Completed my first full month		
I MADE IT. I am home.		

SECTION 10 - PART II FINAL

◆ **Next Steps If You're Serious About Moving** ◆

Your Next Steps - Here Is What to Do Now

You have done the reading. You have done the thinking. Now it is time to take one real step. Here are the four ways to go deeper:

01

Read the Full Book

Africa in Me: My Cape Town

My full personal memoir and relocation guide. It is the complete story behind everything in this starter plan, the immigration lawyer meeting, the realtor call, the Eclipse sunset cruise, my daughter's 25th birthday in Cape Town. If this guide gave you the framework, the book gives you the soul.

[Africa in Me](#)

02

Join the Workshop

South Africa Relocation Workshop

A live or recorded workshop that walks you through the relocation process in detail, immigration pathways, financial planning, neighborhood selection, and a Q&A session. This is where you bring your specific situation and get specific answers.

03

Book a Relocation Scouting Trip

Plan Your Scouting Mission With Support

Stop wondering and start knowing. A supported scouting trip includes a prepared itinerary, pre-arranged immigration lawyer and realtor meetings, neighborhood guides, and ongoing support before and after your visit. This is how you turn research into reality.

[South Africa Relocation Guide](#)

NOTES

date:

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date:

[illegible]

NOTES

date:

[illegible]

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date:

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YOUR NEXT CHAPTER. YOUR PLAN. *Your Move.*



Relocating to South Africa is more than a move,
it's a transition that impacts every area of your life.
This workbook gives you the **clarity, confidence**, and
practical tools you need to **plan with intention** and
create a future that fits your vision.

WHAT YOU'LL GAIN INSIDE:



CLARITY

Get clear on your why, your
goals, and what truly matters.



PREPARATION

Plan every step with confidence
and practical checklists.



TRANSITION

Navigate your move smoothly
and settle in with peace.



INTEGRATION

Build meaningful connections and
create a life that feels like home.



FREEDOM

Design your future on your terms
and live with purpose.



PLAN WITH PURPOSE.

MOVE WITH CONFIDENCE.

LIVE WITH INTENTION.



TANYA MARIE BENNETT

Relocation Strategist, Author, and Planner.

Tanya helps individuals, families, and professionals
relocate to South Africa with clarity and confidence.
With a strategic approach and real-world experience,
she empowers you to plan intentionally, move
with peace, and build a life you love.

“The future belongs to
those who plan for it.
— *You*”



THIS ISN'T JUST A MOVE.
THIS IS YOUR NEXT CHAPTER.



info@tanyamariebennett.com

YOUR NEXT CHAPTER. YOUR PLAN. *Your Move.*

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WHAT YOU'LL GAIN INSIDE:



CLARITY

Get clear on your why, your goals, and what truly matters.



PREPARATION

Plan every step with confidence and practical checklists.



TRANSITION

Navigate your move smoothly and settle in with peace.



INTEGRATION

Build meaningful connections and create a life that feels like home.



FREEDOM

Design your future on your terms and live with purpose.



TANYA MARIE BENNETT

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THIS ISN'T JUST A MOVE.
THIS IS YOUR NEXT CHAPTER.

“

The future belongs to
those who plan for it.

— You

”

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YOUR NEXT CHAPTER. YOUR PLAN. *Your Move.*

Relocating to South Africa is more than a move—it's a transition that impacts every area of your life. This workbook gives you the **clarity**, **confidence**, and practical tools you need to plan with **intention** and create a future that fits **your vision**.

WHAT YOU'LL GAIN INSIDE:



CLARITY

Get clear on your why, your goals, and what truly matters.



PREPARATION

Plan every step with confidence and practical checklists.



TRANSITION

Navigate your move smoothly and settle in with peace.



INTEGRATION

Build meaningful connections and create a life that feels like home.



FREEDOM

Design your future on your terms and live with purpose.



TANYA MARIE BENNETT

Relocation Strategist, Author, and Planner.

Tanya helps individuals, families, and professionals relocate to South Africa with clarity and confidence. With a strategic approach and real-world experience, she empowers you to plan intentionally, move with peace, and build a life you love.

“

The future belongs to those who plan for it.

— You

”



THIS ISN'T JUST A MOVE.
THIS IS YOUR NEXT CHAPTER.