

UK / SOUTH AFRICA TRAVEL RULES



TRAVELLING TO SA

PCR Testing in the UK before you travel to SA

You will still need a PCR test to enter South Africa - with your results within 72 hours of travelling regardless of your vaccination status. Make sure you take a few printed copies. It must be conducted by a certified medical practitioner and show a signature. It cannot be a NHS test – you need to pay for it privately.

** TBCSA is busy campaigning for this requirement to be dropped by the SA Govt for fully vaccinated travellers.

Some options include:

- Randox –Pre-departure [home testing PCR](#) - £43 using discount code EasyJet2021 (For Crawley drop off samples by 1430 at Moto Pease Pottage for results by 12h00 next day)
Their Day 2 tests are £48
- Gatwick airport ‘ExpressTest’ drive-through at the South Terminal Long Stay Car Park. These must be [booked in advance](#).
Their PCR swab Fit to Fly tests are £59pp with results by 10pm the next day
Their Day 0-2 lateral flow tests are £35pp with results in 40 mins.
- Boots – Must prebook your test. Results arrive within 48 hours and come with a ‘fit to fly’ certificate. These are £79.
- Sofitel Heathrow - Submit the tests to reception by 8pm at LHR for an overnight result received via a dedicated app. They do [a test and rest package](#) for about £200 (B&B & PCR test) which is handy if you live far from the airport.

Only children under the age of five are exempt from needing a negative PCR test.

SA’s Health Declaration Form

Once you land in SA they will take your temperature on arrival for screening.

You will be asked to complete a Health Declaration Form on arrival in SA including your address, contact information, and recent travel history. They will also ask you to download the COVID Alert SA [App](#). You might be asked to show proof of where you will be staying (in case your temperature is high and you need to isolate) so take a copy of your hotel booking or a letter from your family stating you will be staying with them.

Please note this is just information I have collated from various websites to help clarify the rules for myself. Please check all the facts yourself independently as I take no responsibility for any outdated or incorrect information

Masks

It is likely you will be required to wear your mask for the whole journey except while eating or drinking. masks are mandatory in SA in all public places so don't whip it off at OR Tambo/Cape Town airports either.

Travelling with Kids?

Don't forget to take their unabridged birth certificates – especially if they are South African or are dual SA/GB. They should be entering and exiting South Africa on their “green mamba” passports.

If a child under 18 is not travelling with both named parents on the birth certificate then you still need a letter of consent ([Download suggested template here](#)) from the other parent and a copy of their passport – but again this is mainly for South African/dual citizenship children. But not a bad idea to take it along anyhow.

Full details can be read on the [DHA website here](#).

Travel Insurance

Its not a legal requirement but you'd be taking an unnecessary risk without it! Most policies do now include Covid-19 cover you so long as you are not travelling against an FCDO advisory against non-essential travel. SA is no longer red listed so your normal insurance is valid.

On the ground

- As part of the Level 1 restrictions in SA please note a curfew is in place so you need to be at home/hotel between midnight and 4 AM.
- Restaurants and cinemas will close promptly at 23h00 allowing time for everyone to get home by 00h00.
- Night clubs are still closed.
- Face masks in public are still mandatory in SA unless you are under 6 years old.
- Social distancing too is still a thing at 1.5 meters.
- Hospitality establishments etc are required to record of patrons for track and tracing purposes, including temperature checks and contact details so please allow time and understand they need to comply.
- No drinking alcohol in public unless in a licenced establishment ie no beers on the beach. No alcohol may be sold after 11pm anywhere.
- Some land borders are still closed.

For more information visit <https://visitsouthafrica.info/>

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RETURNING TO THE UK

UK's Passenger Locator Form

You will need to complete the UK's Passenger Locator Form in the 48 hours before you are due to land in the UK. It is not worth trying to do it ahead of the 48 hours. You don't have to create an account to fill out the locator form – but it is useful if you travel regularly.

Access the form from here:

<https://www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk>

Every adult must complete their own PL form.

Children (multiple) under 18 can be included on an adult's PL form.

If you are fully vaccinated (at least 2 weeks prior to travel):

- You need to show you have booked your Day 2 test (any time from arrival to 48 hours), which from the end of October should be a Lateral Flow test.
- You will need your Covid Pass QR code from the NHS app to prove your vaccination.

If you are not fully vaccinated:

- **You will still need a PCR test in the 3 days before you fly to the UK**
- **You need to isolate at home for 10 days on arrival and pre-book day 2 and day 8 tests**, to be confirmed on your PLF.

Children

- **Children who are resident in the UK, or in a country with an approved proof of vaccination (which SA now is), do not have to quarantine on arrival in England. they are considered "vaccinated" even though they have no jabs.**
- If they are under 4 years, they do not have to take any COVID-19 travel tests.
- Children aged 5 to 17 don't have to take a COVID-19 test before travelling to England but they must also take a day 2 lateral flow test (paid for privately) on arrival or before day 2 – arrival day is day 0

SA's Health Questionnaire

You will need to complete South Africa's Exit Health Screening Questionnaire

<https://www.airports.co.za/Documents/Exit%20Screening%20Questionnaire.pdf>

PCR Testing in SA

Please note that although the UK Government no longer requires you to have a PCR test to fly back to the UK now that we are off the red list - many of the airlines flying from South Africa to the UK do still require this. Please check with your airline as they won't allow you to board if this is still their rule.

PCR testing is widely available across South Africa. Private labs include

Ampath, Lancet, Lab24, PathCare, Epicentre and Testaro - with or without appointment.

There is also rapid antigen tests and PCR testing at OR Tambo, Cape Town International and King Shaka International. Concierge testing facilities are also available at some hotels and even lodges in the Kruger. The cost of PCR tests is around R850 (£42) and results take between 24 - 48 hours.

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