

Sustainable Integration of Distributed Energy Resources for Power System Development

TRAVEL TIPS

Climate

Johannesburg is situated on the highveld plateau, and has a subtropical highland climate with the summer months (October to April) characterised by hot days followed by afternoon thundershowers and cool evenings, and the winter months (May to September) by dry, sunny days followed by cold nights. Temperatures in Johannesburg are usually fairly mild due to the city's high elevation, with an average maximum daytime temperature in October of 25°C (77°F) dropping to an average of around 11°C (61°F) in the October evening.

Airports & Transfers

The closest airport to Misty Hills Hotel is **Lanseria** International Airport, situated only 16 kms from the hotel, while the Internationally acclaimed *OR Tambo* airport is 80kms away. International travellers will arrive at OR Tambo airport, but it is suggested that local delegates make Lanseria their destination. Airport transfers are available from both hotels at an additional fee. Contact the conference secretariat

Travel requirements

Please note that, with immediate effect, anyone outside of South Africa traveling to the country must have two consecutive blank pages in their passport, which lie side by side when the passport is open (i.e. left and a right hand page). Passports must also be valid for at least six months. Passengers traveling to South Africa with passports which do not comply with these requirements will either be stopped from boarding the aircraft or risk deportation on arrival in South Africa.

The Department of Home Affairs in South Africa requires all passengers under 18 to travel with an Unabridged Birth Certificate. Under the law, all minors under the age of 18 years are required to produce, in addition to their passport, an Unabridged Birth Certificate (showing the particulars of both parents) when exiting and entering South African ports of entry. When a child travels with only one parent, additional documents should include an affidavit in which the absent parent gives consent for the child to travel, a court order granting full parental responsibilities or legal guardianship of the child, or the death certificate of the absent parent. The affidavit should be no more than 3 months old from date of travel.

You are strongly encouraged to speak to your local South African Embassy or Consular-General about travel requirements if you are travelling from overseas.

Visas

Visas are not required for citizens of most European countries and many other countries. A list of countries that currently do not require a visa can be found at the South African Government website (<http://home-affairs.pwv.gov.za/migration/visa/schedule.htm>). Participants requiring a visa for entry into South Africa are strongly advised to make their applications in their home countries at least three-months before their intended date of travel. For more information please contact your nearest embassy or South African Consulate or consult your travel agency. Delegates wishing to travel to South Africa's neighbouring countries and back to South Africa are advised to apply for a multiple-entry visa.

Health

There are no compulsory vaccination requirements for persons entering South Africa. However, if you anticipate travelling to a malaria-affected area it is recommended that you take prophylactics before arrival and the necessary precautions while in the area (e.g. protective clothing, insect repellents). South African doctors and dentists are highly trained and hospitals are well equipped. It is strongly advised that delegates take appropriate health insurance prior to their departure. Yellow fever infected countries require inoculations to enter South Africa, i.e. Brazil, certain South American neighbouring countries and central Africa.

We strongly encourage visitors to familiarise themselves with the now contained Listeriosis outbreak in South Africa to ensure they eat safely and do not put themselves at risk.

TRAVEL TIPS (Cont.)

Time difference

South Africa operates two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time throughout the year, putting it an hour ahead of Central European Winter Time and seven hours in advance of Eastern Standard Winter Time.

Currency

Currency in South Africa is the Rand, denoted by the symbol R, with One Rand (R1) made up of 100 cents. Foreign currency can be exchanged at local banks and bureaux de change. All major credit cards such as American Express, Bank of America, Diners, Master Card, Visa and affiliates are readily accepted in most venues and there is a widespread Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) system in operation that offers a complete 24-hour service. Machines displaying international credit card logos can be used with the respective credit cards.

VAT

Value Added Tax (VAT) has recently been increased to a rate of 15% which is levied on most goods and services and is included in the display price of most goods. International visitors are encouraged to keep their cash payment slips as they can reclaim VAT on goods (not services) priced higher than R250.00 at the airport on departure, some harbours and at Customs Offices.

Safety and security

Like many major cities, Johannesburg has both good and bad areas. It is advisable not to walk alone, particularly at night, in low-traffic areas. Ostentatious displays of wealth should be avoided, and it is not advisable to look like a typical 'tourist' with many cameras strung around your neck. Do not leave your valuables unattended.