

Published based on [The Joy Of Hiking In South Africa](#)

# **The Joy Of Hiking In South Africa**

If you enjoy exploring the world with your feet then you will love [hiking in South Africa](#). South Africa is a beautiful country with a melting pot of cultures which and will afford you some stunning views that you will want to capture on camera, as well as a multicultural experience from coming into contact with its friendly inhabitants.

The landscape of South Africa is varied with many different kinds of hiking terrain in the various provinces for you to choose from. In Kwazulu-Natal there is the famous Drakensburg mountain range which is the highest mountain range south of Kilimanjaro and home to a number of excellent San rock paintings. The verdant Midlands area is another hiking option in Kwazulu-Natal. Good hiking trails are also to be found on Table Mountain in the Cape and in Namaqualand where the fields of wildflowers are a stunning sight in spring. For more great [hiking in South Africa](#) the majestic Tsitsikamma Forest is not to be missed if you like hiking under a canopy of trees, and then there are the rugged and beautiful shorelines of the Wild Coast in the Eastern Cape which lay claim to popular and world-renowned hiking trails like the Otter Trail. Land locked Gauteng has its own range of hiking trails such as those in and around the Cradle of Humankind.

South Africa has one of the best climates in the world which makes it possible to hike throughout the year except for one or two places. This does not mean, however, that sunny skies are equivalent to good hiking conditions. The weather is often unpredictable in mountainous areas like Table Mountain and the Drakensburg even though the weather may seem fine at the base of these slopes. Hikers would do well to take notice of weather reports and not go hiking if the weather conditions are not suitable. It is advantageous to sign up for a guided hiking tour led by an experienced hiking guide rather than try to hike across difficult and unknown terrain alone. South Africa may be a lovely country but [hiking in South Africa](#) is not for sissies!

Speaking of sissies, you do not have to be a sissy to want to hike in comfort and hiking in South Africa can be a very comfortable experience indeed. Many country estates and guest houses offer nature trails and hikes that can take anything from a couple of hours to a day but you wont need to sleep out under the stars as there will be a soft bed, a soothing shower and a hot meal waiting for you back at your lodgings. If you like to stretch your legs and really hit your stride with a hike of more than a couple of days duration but dont want to rough it overmuch then slack packing is the way to go. Slack packing means you dont have to carry a heavy pack on your back while you are hiking. Your back pack is transported to the days destination for you so all you will have to carry is a day pack containing water, a lightweight jacket, trail mix, sandwiches or energy bars, and wet wipes. If you go on a guided hiking tour that offers the slack packing option of hiking you will probably not even have to carry any survival or first aid gear as it will be carried for you.

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