

## **Q&A guide for addressing concerns about US-SA relations**

### **Is it safe for Americans to travel to South Africa given recent political tensions?**

Yes. Political disputes between governments do not generally affect the day-to-day experience of travellers in South Africa. Millions of international tourists, including Americans, visit our country each year. The United States is South Africa's largest inbound tourist market, welcoming 372,362 overseas visitors in 2024.

Major tourism hubs continue operating as usual with no significant impact on the visitor experience.

### **Has Donald Trump's administration imposed any travel restrictions on South Africans or American visitors?**

No. While the US administration has **proposed** restrictions for some African nations, South Africa is **not** on this list. Travel between South Africa and the USA continues uninterrupted. Monitor official sources like the US State Department for updates, but no changes currently impact tourism.

### **Will I face difficulties entering or exiting South Africa as an American?**

No. Entry requirements for US citizens remain unchanged. Americans can visit South Africa for up to 90 days without a visa, and customs and immigration procedures continue to function normally. There are no additional restrictions for American travellers.

### **What if new travel restrictions are announced during my visit?**

Any significant policy changes affecting international travel typically include advance notice and implementation periods. Even in the unlikely event of new restrictions, travellers already in the country would normally be allowed to complete their visits. SATSA members remain up-to-date with all regulations and would provide immediate assistance and information if any changes occurred.

**What about President Trump’s comments calling South Africa "a bad place to be right now"?**

Statements from political figures often reflect broader geopolitical considerations rather than the everyday experiences of travellers. Like any country, South Africa has areas where caution is advisable and others that are generally safe. Popular tourist destinations maintain high safety standards, and millions of visitors travel here each year without incident. As with any international trip, exercising awareness and taking sensible precautions is important. SATSA-accredited tour operators can provide local expertise and guidance to help travellers make informed decisions about their itineraries.

**Will I face hostility as an American tourist because of these diplomatic issues?**

Tourism plays a vital role in our economy and society—South Africans are known for their warmth towards guests from all over the world regardless of politics back home.

**Is there an increased risk of protests or unrest due to these tensions?**

South Africa, like many democracies worldwide, has a history of public demonstrations as a means of civic engagement. While protests do occur, they are typically localised. Major tourist areas and travel routes are generally unaffected, but visitors should stay informed, follow local advice, and remain aware of their surroundings. SATSA-accredited members monitor the situation closely and can provide guidance to help travellers navigate any potential disruptions.

**Will recent diplomatic tensions affect consular services?**

US Consular services continue to operate normally in South Africa. The US maintains consulates in Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban, as well as an embassy in Pretoria, all of which continue to provide services to US citizens.