

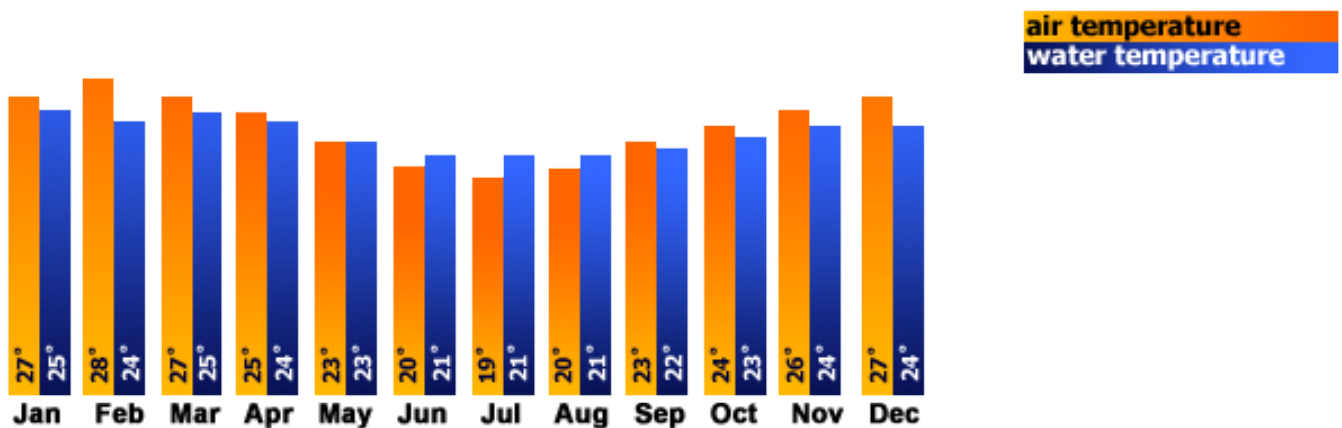
**Location:** The Republic of South Africa is a country located at the southern tip of Africa, with a 1,739 miles coastline on the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. The country of South Africa spreads across more than 385,000 square miles, incorporating a variety of landscapes such as sea, mountains, plains and deserts. Akin to its various landscapes, the country has a very diverse population. These aspects combine to make South Africa the continent's leading economic power.

**Languages:** 11 official languages: Afrikaans, English, Ndebele, Sepedi, Sesotho, siSwati, Xitsonga, Setswana, Tshvenda, Xhosa and Zulu.

**Religion:** 68% Christians (Anglicans, Methodists, Roman Catholics and various black independent churches such as the Christian Church of Zion); 2% Muslims; 1.5% Hindus as well as 28% of local traditional religion and animism.

**Time:** GMT + 1 (from the last Friday in April to last Thursday in September)

**Weather & Water Temperature:** South Africa's climate is generally sunny and pleasant. Winters are usually mild, although snow falls on the mountain ranges of the Cape and Natal and occasionally in lower-lying areas, when a brief cold spell can be expected throughout the country. Air temperature ranges from 19°C in June to 28°C in February. Water temperature is around 19°C in July and 28°C in February.



**Electricity:** 220/240 volts AC; 250 volts AC (Pretoria), 50Hz three-pin round plugs are in use. It's advisable to take an adaptor, as they are not widely available. We also highly recommend that you take a surge adaptor with you if using expensive and valuable appliances. If you have a specific electrical requirement please contact one of the Scuba Team who can discuss this with you and advise you accordingly.

**Currency:** South African currency is the rand. . Foreign currency can be exchanged at local banks and Bureaux de Changes. The vast majority of services such as hotels, restaurants, boutiques accept international credit cards (Visa and Mastercard being the most popular)

**Tipping:** It is custom to leave a tip to waiters, luggage carriers and taxi drivers. If you are unsure what to give please do hesitate to speak with the local dive guide or contact us.

**Visas:** UK passport holders on holiday for less than 90 days do not require a visa. Non UK passport holders can contact the South African embassy on +44 (0)207 451 7299

**Food & Drink:** The biggest form of health problems with divers and tourists alike is being dehydrated. Please drink plenty of water before and after a dive as well as throughout the day. We also advise that you don't drink the local water and only drink bottle water and wash all fruit beforehand.

**Foreign & Commonwealth Office Travel Advice:** For up to date advice on foreign travel please visit <http://www.fco.gov.uk>.

**Health & Vaccinations:** Requirements vary from country to country, your own GP is the best person to speak to regarding relevant requirements. Make your GP aware that you will be scuba diving, as some medication is not recommended for Scuba divers.

**Clothing:** The seasons in the Southern Hemisphere are directly opposite those of the Northern Hemisphere. For summer months lightweight (cottons and linens), short-sleeved clothes are best. A light jersey/jumper might be needed for the cooler evenings. Umbrellas and raincoats are essential for the summers and the Western Cape winters. Warmer clothes are needed for the winter months. A waterproof jacket is essential for the Sardine Run tours.

**Passports:** Passports must be valid for at least 6 months on your return to the UK.

*Please note that although we maintain and revise this information frequently, the information contained within these documents is subject to change without notice. Please check with one of our travel consultants for the latest information.*