



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Area: 471,445 sq. mi. (24th) – almost 2 times size of Texas.

Capital: Pretoria **Largest City:** Johannesburg

Population: 62,027,503 (23rd)

Ethnic Groups: 81.4% Black; 8.2% Colored; 7.3% White; 2.7% Asian

Religions: 78% Christian (58.3% Protestant; 19.7% Catholic); 10.9% No Religion;

UN Human Development Index: 0.713 (109th) *high*

Currency: South African Rand (equals \$ 0.053)

GDP (PPP): \$1,038 trillion (32nd) **GDP (PPP) per capita:** \$16,625 (95th)

Government: Unitary Parliamentary Republic (President is both Head of State and Head of Govt.)

President: Cyril Ramaphosa

Import Partners: China 18%, Germany 11%, United States 6%, India 5 %

Export Partners: China 15%, United Kingdom 8%, Germany 7%, United States 6%, India 6%

International Organizations: U.N., BRICS, African Union, G-77, G-5

President Cyril Ramaphosa was reelected ANC (African National Congress) leader in 2022 ahead of national elections scheduled for 2024.

South Africa's unique location, between Europe and Asia, attracted adventurers and colonizers from Portugal, the Netherlands and Britain. In 1931, the Union of South Africa (USA!) became fully independent of the United Kingdom. In 1948, the National Party imposed Apartheid, under which whites enjoyed the highest living standard in Africa while the black majority remained disadvantaged in terms of income, education, housing, and life expectancy.

In 1994 South Africa's first universal election, representing the end of Apartheid, was won by the previously banned African National Congress led by the previously jailed Nelson Mandela. The largely successful Truth and Reconciliation Commission, chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, was formed to promote reconciliation and forgiveness among perpetrators and victims of Apartheid. It may serve as a model for other countries or areas in conflict.

After Apartheid, the US and South Africa have developed a strategically, politically and economically beneficial relationship despite occasional strains like South Africa's neutrality concerning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Bilateral trade between South Africa and the U.S. increased in 2021 to \$ 24.5 billion with a trade imbalance of \$9.3 billion in South Africa's favor.

Fun Facts: *11 Official Languages.*

generates 2/3 of Africa's electricity.

Rte.62 is the longest wine route in the world.

More than 2000 shipwrecks in and around the coast.