

United States of America

Visa Information — South Africa

Updated by Siddhi · 20 May 2026

IMPORTANT NOTE

Note: Visa information is not guaranteed. Kindly confirm all details with the relevant authorities.

The US Department of State has updated its visa interview process for all non-immigrant visa applicants, effective immediately. Applicants must now schedule their in-person interviews at the US Embassy or Consulate in their country of nationality or in their country of residence if they can provide proof of residency. South Africans and other foreign passport holders will no longer be able to apply in other countries without proof of residency, and may have to return to their home country to complete the process. Nationals of countries without US representation must apply at a designated embassy or consulate.

Please follow the instructions at <https://ais.usvisa-info.com> to schedule an appointment or to submit your visa application via courier. Visa interviews are by appointment only on weekdays.

Immigrant and Fiancé(e) Visas: All US immigrant and fiancé(e) visas for citizens and residents of South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Mauritius, Lesotho and Swaziland are processed through the U.S. Consulate General in Johannesburg. If your petition is still pending with USCIS, contact USCIS Customer Service at <https://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter>. After USCIS approves the petition, contact the Department of State's National Visa Center regarding scheduling. If your case has been scheduled and forwarded to the U.S. Consulate General in Johannesburg, direct all inquiries to JohannesburgIV@state.gov.

The new visa application forms require applicants to provide any social media account names used over the previous five years, five years of previously used telephone numbers, email addresses, international travel and deportation status, and whether any family members have been involved in terrorist activities. Only applicants for certain diplomatic and official visa types are exempt. For more information visit:

<https://ais.usvisa-info.com/en-za/niv/information/faqs>

All visa applicants must bring a DS-160 visa application form with a confirmation/barcode number (starting with AA) to their interview that matches the one used to make their appointment online. If you entered an incomplete, incorrect, or fictitious DS-160 confirmation number in the visa appointment system, you must update the DS-160 number at least 2 business days before your appointment date, otherwise you will need to book a new appointment.

Browser requirements: Use only Internet Explorer 11 or higher, Firefox, or Google Chrome 58 when completing your application. Safari and Microsoft Edge are not supported.

From December 26, photographs of foreign travellers will be taken at all ports of entry and departure — including passport control booths, boarding gates, vehicle lanes, pedestrian crossings, cruise terminals and private docks — using facial recognition technology. For non-US citizens, images may be retained for up to 75 years in DHS's central biometric repository.

HOW TO APPLY

STEP ONE — Complete the Application Form

Each applicant must visit <https://ceac.state.gov/ceac/> to complete the DS-160 visa application form. Upon completion, print the barcode confirmation page (print the full application). You will need this barcode number to schedule the appointment; this page must be produced at the Consulate on the day of your interview.

STEP TWO — Payment

You must decide whether to pay the non-refundable MRV application fee by **cash** or **credit card**.

Credit card: Contact the Visa Information Service Centre (VISC) via telephone or the website to make payment and schedule your appointment. You will be asked to pre-select a DHL office for free passport delivery.

Cash: Create a user account on the website and continue until you reach the Payment page. Select 'Pay by Cash', then download, print, and follow the Cash payment instruction sheet. Allow up to 2 business days for payment to register before scheduling your appointment. Do not use both payment methods.

STEP THREE — Appointment Confirmation

After successfully scheduling an appointment, you will receive an appointment confirmation letter by email. Print this confirmation and bring it to your appointment.

STEP FOUR — Bring to Your Interview

- A valid passport with unused visa pages (bring all prior passports)
- The application confirmation page from the DS-160
- The appointment confirmation page
- A recent front-facing, 50mm × 50mm photograph of each applicant

Passport Delivery After a Successful Visa Interview

- Free delivery to the pre-selected DHL office for self-collection
- Pay for standard home/office delivery
- Pay for expedited delivery to one of three specified DHL locations (generally next business day — not guaranteed)

Please note: Do not purchase plane tickets or make irrevocable travel plans before obtaining your visa. Cell phones and portable electronics are not allowed in the Consulate. Paid parking is available nearby; there is no public parking at the Consulate.

DS-160: Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application

The DS-160 is for temporary travel to the United States and for K (fiancé(e)) visas. The form is submitted electronically to the Department of State via the internet. After completing the DS-160:

- Print and keep the DS-160 barcode page (you do not need to print the full application)
- Schedule a visa interview appointment — the Embassy/Consulate does not schedule this for you
- Pay the visa application processing fee

At the interview, a consular officer will determine whether you qualify for a visitor visa. Ink-free digital fingerprint scans are taken as part of the application process. After the interview, the officer may determine that further administrative processing is required.

Important: There is no guarantee a visa will be issued. Do not make final travel plans or buy tickets until you have a visa. A valid US visa in an expired passport remains valid until its expiration date — do not remove it. You may travel using the valid visa in your expired passport together with your new valid passport.

COST

The visa application fee is determined by the type of visa. All non-immigrant visa applicants must pay the MRV fee (non-refundable and non-transferable) prior to scheduling an appointment. Certain visa categories are subject to an additional reciprocity fee payable at the Consulate.

From **1 October 2025**, non-immigrant travellers may also be required to pay a **visa integrity fee of USD 250 (approx. ZAR 4,426)** at the time the visa is issued.

Visa Category	Fee
Non-immigrant Visas, non-petition based (B1/B2, C1/D, F, M, J, I, TN, TD, T, U)	USD 185
Non-immigrant Visas, petition based (H, L, O, P, Q, R)	USD 205

Fees are subject to fluctuation. All applicants, including children, must pay the non-refundable MRV fee. Payment is required whether or not a visa is ultimately issued.

DELAY

Processing times are based on the individual circumstances of each case. Visit <https://travel.state.gov> for current processing time information.

REQUIREMENTS

A foreign national travelling to the United States for tourism requires a visitor visa (B-2 or combined B1/B2). Required documents include:

- A valid passport with at least six months' validity beyond your intended period of stay, with unused visa pages. Each individual needing a visa must submit a separate application.
- Passport containing the most recently issued US Visa (if applicable).
- Non-immigrant Visa Application Form DS-160 confirmation page.
- Application fee payment receipt (if required before the interview).
- Appointment confirmation and instructions page.
- Photo — uploaded during the DS-160 online application. If the upload fails, bring one printed photo (50mm × 50mm).
- Accompanying family members should present an original marriage certificate (spouse) and/or birth certificate (for unmarried children under 21), as applicable.

Additional documents may be requested to establish eligibility, including evidence of:

- The purpose of your trip
- Your intent to depart the United States after your trip
- Your ability to pay all costs of the trip (or evidence that another person will cover costs)

Note: Visa applicants must qualify based on their ties abroad/to their home country, rather than assurances from US family and friends. A letter of invitation or Affidavit of Support is not required and is not a factor used in determining whether to issue or deny the visa.

DAYS CLOSED

All US Consulates in South Africa are closed on South African and US public holidays. The Consulates General in **Cape Town** and **Durban** are closed to the public every Friday. The Consulate General in **Johannesburg** is closed to the public on the last Friday of every month.

2026 Closure Dates

Month	Dates
January	01, 19

February	16
March	—
April	03, 06, 27
May	01, 25
June	16, 19
July	03
August	10
September	07, 24
October	12
November	11
December	16, 25

OFFICE HOURS

Hours	Days
08h00 – 17h00 (closed 13h00 – 14h00)	Monday to Thursday
08h00 – 12h00	Friday

CONTACT DETAILS

US Embassy: Pretoria

Telephone	+27 (0)12 431 4000
Fax	+27 (12) 342 2299
Address	877 Pretorius St, Arcadia, Pretoria
Website	https://za.usembassy.gov/

US Consulate: Johannesburg

Telephone	+27 (0)11 290 3000 / +27 (0)87 550 2160 (visa questions)
Fax	+27 (0)11 884 0396
Address	1 Sandton Drive, Sandhurst (opp Sandton City Mall)
Email	ConsularSouthAfrica@state.gov consularjohannesburg@state.gov (general) essa_contactus+za+info+en@visaops.net (visa)
Website	https://za.usembassy.gov/contact/#Johannesburg

US Consulate: Durban

Telephone	+27 (0)31 310 3300 / +27 (0)87 550 2160
Address	303 Dr Pixley KaSeme Street, 31st Floor, Delta Towers, Durban, 4001
Email	ConsularSouthAfrica@state.gov consualdurban@state.gov (general) essa_contactus+za+info+en@visaops.net
Website	https://za.usembassy.gov/contact/#Durban

US Consulate: Cape Town

Telephone	+27 (0)21 702 7300 / +27 (0)87 550 2160
Address	2 Reddam Avenue, Westlake, Cape Town, 7945
Postal	Postnet suite 50, Private Bag X26, Tokai 7966
Email	ConsularSouthAfrica@state.gov essa_contactus+za+info+en@visaops.net
Website	https://za.usembassy.gov/contact/#Cape%20Town

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