

## Student tips – South Africa – Johannesburg

- Rent a car and try to learn to drive a stick if you can (sticks cheaper to rent than automatics) – but be aware they drive on the left side of the road.
- If you need transportation, contact Alistair at +27 79 975 9192 or email [operations@astrotrip.co.za](mailto:operations@astrotrip.co.za). He charges very decent prices and is a very good driver.
- Rent a GPS with the car, chances are you will get lost and there are areas you want to avoid going to, especially at night.
- Get a cell phone – Dawn Francis will write you a letter confirming your residency in the country so you can get a local SIM card.
  - a. You can buy cheap cell phones there (~\$15-20) – you can get fancy ones if you want as well.
  - b. Vodacom has the best reception throughout the hospital
- Talk to your doctors/residents about what you want to see during the first day or two, most of the time they will let you pick what you want to do and see.
- If working in Charlotte Maxeke, stay with a host family who lives in Parkwood or Parktown. Both the areas are very close to the school (about 5km) and they are also close to Rosebank – which has a nice mall, good food places, great African market (don't forget to bargain when you go to the market – most of the time you can talk the price down to about 50%)
  - a. Angela Miller is a great host mom in Parkwood – Dawn Francis has her contact information
- If you like steaks go to “the Local Grill” in Rosebank. AMAZING steaks!
- Go to Moyo restaurant – there are several in Jo'burg. They have great food (like springbok, ostrich, ox tail, etc), and it's a fun experience in general.
- Visit Kruger park (need about 3-5 days)
- Visit Lion or Lion and Rhino park if you want to play with baby lions, tigers or cheetahs. Try to visit on a feeding day if you can, and call before you go to see what kind of cubs they have.
- Go to apartheid museum – there is a lot of reading, but a great history museum.
- Go to Cape Town (need about 3-5 days). Would recommend flying there – only 2hrs and reasonable prices. If you have extra time you can take the train (26hrs). Do NOT drive from Jo'burg to Cape Town – it is about 15hr drive and we were told it is not safe – lots of car-jacking.
  - a. Hard to get around without a car.
  - b. Try to get a hostel/hotel on long street – there are a lot of restaurants and bars on the street – more or less the center of the city.
  - c. In cape town visit Kirstenbosch gardens (do a hike there), take the cable cart to the top of Table mountain (take a jacket, it gets windy and cold up there), boulder beach (to see the penguins walking and swimming right next to you – warmest water we found and it was still quite chilly), cape point (water is freezing, don't plan on swimming here, but beautiful – wear hicking shoes), do the wine tasting tours, visit Robbin Island – where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned – try to get tickets a day or two in advance.