

## **AU COMMISSION TRAVEL NOTE for JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA**

### **INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (AU.COMMIT) CAMPAIGN WITH SADC**

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#### ***LOGISTICAL INFORMATION***

The workshop will be held on 29 and 30 November 2011 at the Kopanong Hotel in Johannesburg, South Africa. We are pleased to provide you with the following information regarding arrangements for the meeting.

**Meeting Venue:** Conference room of the Kopanong Hotel, Tel: +27 (11) 749-0000  
Fax: +27 (11) 967-1389, 243 Glen Gory Road, Norton Estate, Benoni, South Africa,  
<http://www.kopanong.co.za>.

#### **General:**

The Republic of South Africa (also referred to as South Africa, SA or RSA) is a country in southern Africa. To the north of the country lie the neighbouring territories of Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe; to the east are Mozambique and Swaziland; while Lesotho is an enclave surrounded by South African territory. Johannesburg is the largest city in South Africa, by population. The city is one of the 40 largest metropolitan areas in the world, and is also the world's largest city not situated on a river, lake, or coastline. While Johannesburg is not one of South Africa's three capital cities, it is the seat of the Constitutional Court, which has the final word on interpretation of South Africa's new post-Apartheid constitution. The city is the source of a large-scale gold and diamond trade, due to its location on the mineral-rich Witwatersrand range of hills. Johannesburg is served by O.R. Tambo International Airport, the largest and busiest airport in Africa and a gateway for international air travel to and from the rest of Southern Africa.

#### **Visa and Taxes:**

- Visas are required by most foreign nationals whether visiting for a holiday or to conduct business.
- A passport, visa and evidence of yellow fever vaccination are required.
- Travellers are encouraged to carry a copy of their national passports with them at all times so that, if questioned by local officials, proof of identity is readily available.
- Depending on your nationality, and the purpose and duration of your visit, you may not need a visa to visit South Africa.
- If you hold a national passport (diplomatic, official or ordinary) or a travel document for the any one of the following listed countries / territories / international organisations, you will not need to apply for a visa before arriving at a South African port of entry if you intend to stay in the country for 90 days or less: Botswana, Tanzania, Zimbabwe.
- If you hold a national passport (diplomatic, official or ordinary) or a travel document for the any one of the following listed countries / territories / international organizations, you will not need to apply for a visa before arriving at a South African port of entry if you intend to stay for a period of 30 days or less, or are in transit: Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia.
- If you hold a national passport (diplomatic, official and service) or a travel document for the any one of the following listed countries / territories / international organizations, you will not need to apply for a visa before arriving at a South African port of entry if: Angola (90 days).

#### **Arrival and Getting Around:**

- Johannesburg is served by the O.R. Tambo International Airport.

- Delegates will be met at the airport by hotel shuttles which are available to deliver them to the hotel free of charge.
- The Gautrain (a speed train not part of the metro system) is a good, clean and safe way to jump fast between the airport, Marlboro, Midrand, Rosebank, Pretoria and Centurion.
- Minibus taxis can be unsafe and should be avoided unless you are with a local: the routes are very confusing, and conductors will often say 'yes' when you ask 'are you going to X?' so that they get your money and then drop you at some crossroads and say 'change here'.
- Renting a car is a good option. It is worth buying a good road map of Johannesburg, using a GPS and planning your trips carefully before setting out. The city large and not poorly signposted.
- There are some areas of Johannesburg that you don't want to stray into. Stay on the freeway between the airport and Sandton, and do not divert through the townships and Alexandra on London Road.
- Other areas to be especially careful of if you don't know the place are Hillbrow, Louis Botha Avenue (running from Hillbrow to Alexandra), City Suburbia and Johannesburg town centre and some poorer parts of Soweto.
- If you do want to go into town or a township, or even exploring downtown, it is best to book a guided tour.
- Foreigners should use only normal sedan taxis (metered or fixed-price taxis that transport only you and your travel partners) and not shared minibus taxis. Taxis are very rare in Johannesburg and available only at the airport and some areas of Sandton and the city centre. (Airport Link, ☎ +27 (0)11) 792 2017 is a fixed price airport transfer service, Elias, ☎ +27 (0)76 834 0670 is a friendly taxi driver based in the CBD, Magicbus, ☎ +27 (0)11 548-0822, offers shuttle services between OR Tambo Airport and Sandton. They also offer door-to-door transfers. A bit expensive for the single traveller but reasonable when traveling in groups, Roses Taxi, ☎ +27 (0)11 403 9625, operates throughout the city.)

**Currency:** South African Rand (ZAR) US\$1 = ZAR7.5 (average, changes daily)

#### **Money Matters:**

- It's best to carry as little cash as possible to avoid inconvenience if anything should be lost or stolen.
- Currencies are not easily changed.
- Forex bureaux (available at the airport, banks and hotel) offer fast, safe service.
- ATM machines allow you to withdraw cash from VISA and MasterCard.
- Credit cards are accepted everywhere.

#### **Safety and Security:**

- Johannesburg does have a high crime rate, but tourists are seldom involved.
- It makes sense to take precautions to ensure that you do not become a victim.
- As is the case in any large city, do not walk around with expensive jewellery or carry valuables.
- Do not wander into quiet or dark areas on your own.
- For private excursions, it is best to go with a local or hire a tour guide from a travel operator or through your hotel.
- We advise against walking around town alone, especially late at night.

#### **Health:**

- Johannesburg has one of the world's best water purification operations meaning you can drink water from the tap.

- The sun is very strong here and you should always wear sunglasses and apply sunscreen liberally.
- There is no threat of malaria in Johannesburg.
- Johannesburg has excellent medical facilities.
- South Africa has a high prevalence of HIV/Aids.
- A yellow-fever vaccination certificate is required when entering South Africa from certain origins.
- Other vaccinations that might be considered before you travel include typhoid, hepatitis A and B, meningitis, and tetanus.
- Remember that most common illnesses of travellers have to do with food poisoning. Avoid eating uncooked foods, which can easily lead to diarrhoea and other discomforts.
- Nearby medical facilities are:
  - Kloof Road Travel Clinic, 17 Kloof Rd, Corner Arterial Rd W Bedfordview, Dr DM Smith / Sr C Stanford, Tel: +27 (0)11 616 4400, Fax: +27 (0)11 616 3757
  - Airport Clinic & Travel Vaccination Centre, Ground Floor, New Domestic Arrivals Terminal, ☎ +27 (0)11 921-6609. GP, dentist, vaccinations and malaria prophylaxis
  - Sunninghill Hospital, Cnr Witkoppen & Nanyuki Rds, Sunninghill, ☎ +27 (0)11 806-1500.
  - Milpark Hospital, 9 Guild Rd, Parktown West, ☎ +27 (0)11 480-5600.

### Communication and the Internet

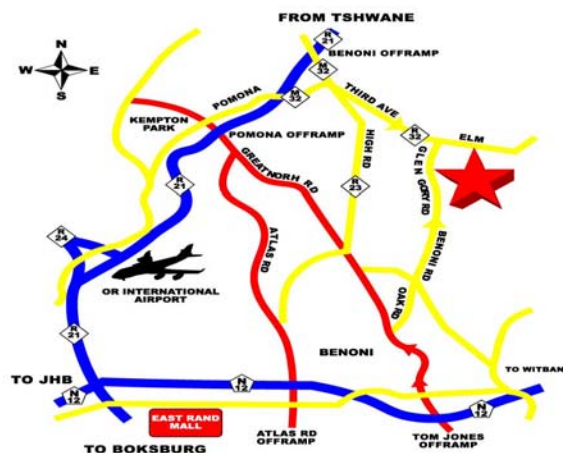
- Country code is +27
- Internet country code is .za
- Most hotels have LAN access.

### Daily allowance

- Sponsored participants to AU.COMMIT on 29-30 November 2011 will receive a daily allowance of approximately \$300.
- These funds are to cover all expenses incurred.
- Please present proof of identification, travel, and nomination in order to receive this allowance.
- The AUC Finance officer will make disbursement in accordance with the registration lists and only based on sufficient documentation.
- MME workshop delegates should liaise with the organisers.

### Accommodation

- The workshop will be held at the Kopanong Hotel and we advise that participants also stay there.
- The Kopanong Hotel is offering a special rate of \$120 per night (dinner, bed and breakfast).
- All delegates are expected to make their own accommodation arrangements.
- Sponsored participants will receive a daily per diem of US\$351 to cover their expenses.
- Alternative accommodation (keeping in mind that transport will be an additional estimated \$40 per day) options are:



- Airport Inn Bed and Breakfast \$70
- Protea Hotel OR Tambo Airport \$90
- Peermont Metcourt Suites at Emperors Palace \$96
- Mondior at Emperors Palace \$120
- InterContinental Johannesburg O.R. Tambo \$430

### **Arrival Procedures**

- Delegates will be met at the airport by a free shuttle service provided by the Kopanong Hotel.
- Delegates that wish to stay elsewhere will make their own transport arrangements.

### **Weather/Climate**

- Johannesburg features a subtropical highland climate .
- The city enjoys a dry, sunny climate with late afternoon thundershowers in the summer months of October to April.
- Temperatures in Johannesburg are usually fairly mild due to the city's high altitude, with the average maximum daytime temperature in November/December of 25.6 °C (78.1 °F).