

Travelling to Johannesburg

World Council 2019



WorldYWCA

Preparing for your *flight*

In preparation for your travel to Johannesburg, please ensure you have confirmed your flight, with the correct name, departure and return dates.

Visa and immigration information:

One of the first things to do when you start to arrange your travel for World Council is to find out if you need a visa for South Africa. Here are some useful links:

- [Visa requirements](#)
- [List of nationalities exempt from visas for South Africa](#)
- [List of South African Embassies](#)

You will receive, by email, two invitation letters, one from South Africa YWCA and the other from the World YWCA. Make sure you have these letters when you apply for your visa.

Health and travel insurance:

- All visa applications must include suitable health/travel insurance for the entire period of your stay in South Africa.

Yellow fever vaccination:

- All visitors entering South Africa must have a valid international yellow fever inoculation certificate. Only infants under the age of one year are exempt.



Packing:

- Make sure you don't take more luggage than you're allowed. Generally, you can bring 2 pieces of bags weighing up to 23 kg per piece. If you are using South African Airways, you can check their policy on luggage here: <http://www.flysaa.com/us/en/flyingSAA/baggage/checkedBaggage.html#baggage>
- Bring important documents and items in your carry on (such as your passport, visa, money, any medications, spare clothes, and any other official documents).
- You can bring up to three 100ml of liquids or gels that are contained within a clear 500ml plastic bag in your carry on.
- Label your luggage (it can be your name and the phone number/address of the accommodation in Johannesburg) in case it is lost.

The day of travel

- Get to the airport early, it is recommended that you arrive at least 2 to 3 hours in advance of international flights. This allows you to have enough time to check-in for your flight and go through customs.

Return trip

- If you are planning on returning with books, clothes, crafts, and other materials from your trip, make sure you have the space in your luggage, and prepare to pay for the extra weight or extra bag. We advise that you try to stay within your baggage limit to avoid paying for excess luggage.



Staying in *Johannesburg*

Banks and currency:

- The South African Rand (ZAR or R) is the currency used in South Africa.
- The exchange rate from US Dollars to South African Rand (Zar or R) is approximately: 1 USD = 13.9334 ZAR.
- Many restaurants and shops will accept credit cards, but smaller merchants and local markets may only accept cash.
- You can exchange money at your local bank before you leave, or you can typically get ZARs from a local bank ATM in South Africa.
- Banks are usually open from 9:00 to 15:30 Monday – Friday, and 9:00 to 11:00 on Saturday.

Climate:

- During November, Johannesburg is in its summer season, but due to its higher elevation, the temperatures remain relatively mild.
- The average temperature during November is 19° Celsius (66° Fahrenheit). It can get up to 25° C (77° F) during the day, and 13° C (55° F) at night.
- It rains on average of 15 days during the month of November.

Drinking water:

- Tap water is safe to drink in South Africa, including in Johannesburg. The hygiene and cleanliness standards are very high at hotels and restaurants, so the fresh fruit, salads, and ice are also safe.

Electricity:

- South Africa uses electrical outlets with 3 prongs – adaptors for other countries can be purchased online or in a supermarket.
- National and international calls:
- For calls to South Africa from another country, dial the country code: +27
 - To call international from South Africa, dial 00 followed by the country code of the country you wish to call.

Languages :

- English is widely spoken and used in communicating but is also a blend of Afrikaans, Isixhosa, Zulu and other South African languages.

Tipping :

- While it's not obligatory to tip in restaurants, locals tip a minimum of 10%.

Timezone:

- South Africa is two hours ahead of GMT, seven ahead of Eastern Standard Winter Time and ten ahead of Pacific Standard Time. There is no daylight saving time.

Security and safety:

Johannesburg is a great city with many safe areas, though there is still some crime. Here are some basic steps to follow as precautions:

- Keep your belongings close to you at all times when walking around and avoid displaying wealth. Carry belongings hidden in your pockets when possible.
- Know where you are going ahead of time, and avoid wandering aimlessly. Walk along well-lit paths at night.
- There are a few areas that you should try and avoid: Hillbrow, Yeoville, Berea, and Alexandria.
- Travel in groups whenever possible.

Emergencies:

- Police emergency services: 10111
- Serious and violent crime (murder and robbery): 011 986 9000
- Ambulance and fire (Johannesburg Central): 011 375 5911
- Johannesburg General Hospital: 011 488 4911



Accommodation:

All World Council participants are strongly advised to book their accommodation at the [Birchwood](#) or [ValueStay](#) Hotels both of which are located within the same premises as the conference center.

Accommodation will be in single or double room occupancy. You or your YWCA may book a room at these hotels by sending an email to: reservations@birchwoodhotel.co.za with copy to mariad@birchwoodhotel.co.za.

In order to avail of special rates for World Council, don't forget to quote this **Block ID n°** on the subject line and in your message: **Block ID 1731204**.

A confirmation of your booking will include the invoice for your room reservation. Payment may be made either by credit card or by bank transfer, the details of which will also be sent with the confirmation and invoice. In addition, you will also receive the hotel's cancellation policy, which you need to understand and take note of in the event that you might need to make changes to your hotel booking, including cancellation. The World YWCA will not be responsible for any changes or cancellation made to your reservation.

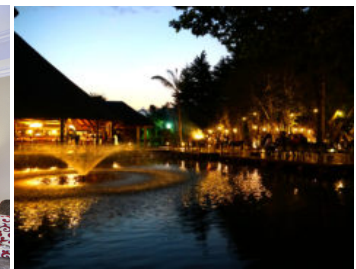
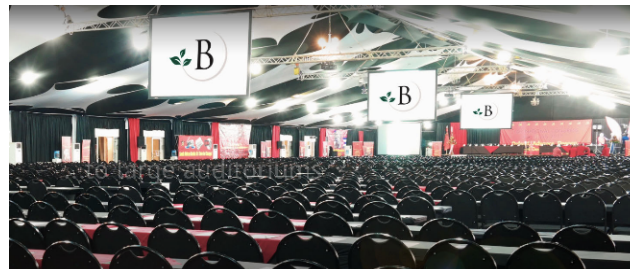
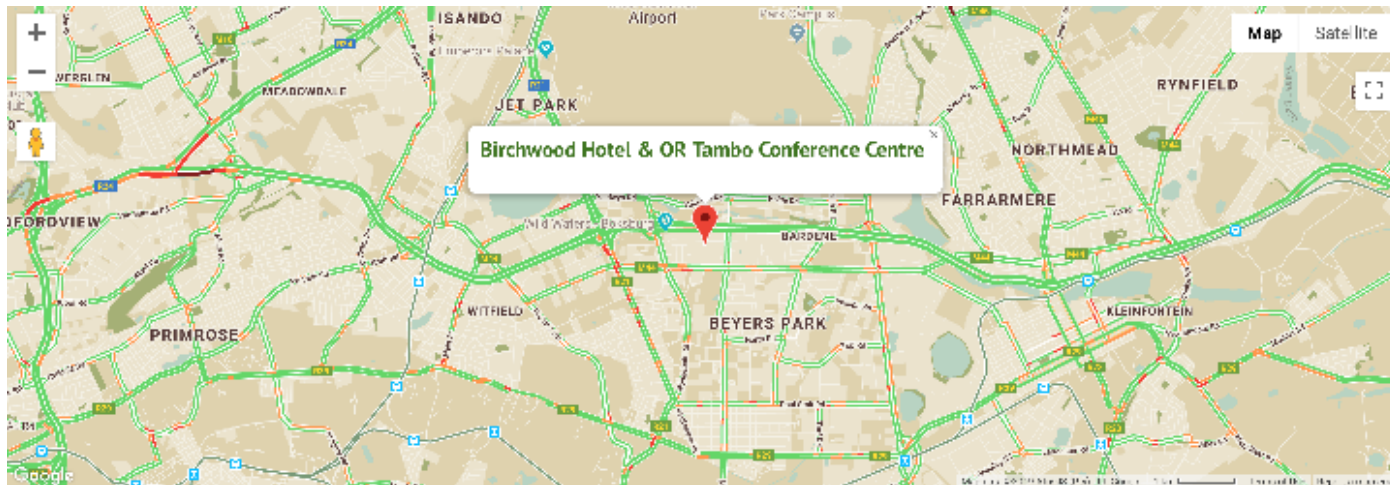


Address of venue:

Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre
Viewpoint Road Bartlett
Boksburg, Johannesburg
1459 South Africa
<https://www.birchwoodhotel.co.za>

We will arrange transport from the airport to the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Center so please make sure to share your travel details in the register form.

Follow this link to check the bus shuttle schedule from the airport to the hotel :
<https://www.worldywca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Airport-Shuttle-Times.pdf>



See you soon in
Johannesburg!

