

## Interesting facts about South Africa

1. South Africa is the largest producer of meat in Africa.
2. South Africa is the only place in the world where Mercedes Benz manufacture right hand drive cars.
3. South Africa is the largest producer of platinum in the world.
4. The world's second largest brewing company is in South Africa.
5. The world's largest diamond was found in South Africa.
6. Afrikaans is the youngest official language in the world.
7. Most Official Languages in the world.
8. 1st African on a space station: Mark Shuttleworth is recorded in South African history facts as the first African to have boarded a space jet in 2002.
9. South Africa is the second largest exporter of fruit in the world.
10. South Africa is the only country in the world to build and then decide to dismantle the whole of its nuclear weapons programme.
11. Chris Hani-Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto is the biggest hospital in the world.
12. The Johannesburg Stock Exchange is the oldest existing and largest stock exchange in Africa.
13. The 50 storey Carlton Centre in Johannesburg is the highest office building in Africa.
14. The South African oil company SASOL has established the only commercially viable oil-from-coal operations in the world.
15. The Computed Axial Tomography Scan (or CAT scan) was developed by Cape Town physicist Allan Cormack and his associate Godfrey Hounsfield. They won the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for their work in 1979.
16. The world's first heart transplant was performed by Dr Chris Barnard in Cape Town on 3 December 1967.
17. The Kreepy Krauly swimming pool vacuum cleaner was invented by Ferdinand Chauvier from Springs in 1974.
18. The University of South Africa (UNISA) is a pioneer of tertiary distance education and is the largest correspondence university in the world with 250,000 students.
19. Q20 was invented in 1950 in Pinetown, KwaZulu-Natal by Mr Robertson. He developed it to displace water from the distributor caps on the old VW Beetle. It's an effective water repellent, keeps rust at bay, eases squeaky door hinges and makes it easy to release rusted or seized nuts and bolts
20. The first MBA programme outside the United States was started by the University of Pretoria in 1949.
21. Before it was acquired by Anheuser-Busch InBev, SAB Miller was the second largest brewery in the world. The SAB company was originally founded in Johannesburg in 1895.
22. South Africa is the only African country that's a member of the G20.
23. The big hole in Kimberley is 463 metres wide. Miners dug the hole from 1871 to 1914 and yielded 2,722 kilograms of diamonds.
24. The Western Deep Levels is the world's deepest mine at 3777 metres.
25. The South African fast food brand, Nando's was founded in Rosettenville, Johannesburg in 1987. The brand has 1,000 outlets in 35 countries.
26. South Africa has the second oldest Air Force in the world. It was established in 1920.
27. South Africa became the first African country and the fifth country in the world to recognize same-sex marriage in 2006.
28. South Africa is the 24th-largest country in the world by land area and, with over 58 million people, is also the world's 24th-most populous nation.
29. South Africa has the longest stretching wine route in the world.
30. The world's best land-based whale-watching spot is located in Hermanus in the Western Cape.
31. Table Mountain is one of the oldest mountains in the world.
32. South African has the highest commercial bungee jumping bridge in the world at Bloukrans.
33. Table Mountain alone has more flower species than England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland combined.
34. South Africa has the world's most luxurious train, the Rovos Rail.
35. The Palace of the Lost City is the biggest theme resort hotel in the world and the largest building project undertaken in the southern hemisphere.
36. South Africa naturally hosts four of the seven fastest mammals in the world, namely the wildebeest, the African lion, the springbok and the cheetah
37. South Africa has many record-breaking animals. The largest bird, the ostrich, the largest fish, whale shark, the tallest animal, the giraffe, the largest land mammal, the elephant, the fastest land mammal, the cheetah.
38. The Cape Town Cycle Tour the largest timed cycle race in the world.
39. Johannesburg is the Largest Man-Made Urban Forest in the world.
40. Johannesburg the second biggest city in Africa.
41. There are around 3,000 shipwrecks off the coast of South Africa
42. South Africa's Karoo Region is home to some of the world's best fossils.
43. South Africa has hosted three different types of World Cup events. Football in 2010, cricket in 2003, and rugby in 1995. It is the only country in the world other than England to have done so.

44. South Africa was the first African country to host the FIFA World Cup.
45. Pietermaritzburg's city hall is the largest red brick building in the Southern Hemisphere.
46. South Africa has the oldest meteor scar in the world, near Parys, called the Vredefort Dome.
47. Cape Town's Castle of Good Hope is the oldest building in South Africa. It was built between 1666 and 1679 by the Dutch East India company.
48. South Africa is home to the largest wine cellar in the world. The KWV cellars in Paarl cover an area of 22 hectares (54 acres) and has a capacity of 121 million litres.
49. Durban is the largest port in Africa and the 9th largest port in the world.
50. J.R.R. Tolkien (the author of the of the Rings) was born in Bloemfontein (in the Free State province) in 1892.
51. Elon Musk (the genius behind SpaceX and Tesla) was born in Pretoria, Gauteng in 1971.
52. Charlize Theron (the famous Hollywood actress) was born in Benoni, Gauteng in 1972. She won the Academy Award for Best Actress in 2004.
53. Dave Matthews(the famous American musician) was born in Johannesburg in 1967.
54. Before becoming the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill escaped from a prisoner of war camp in Pretoria in 1899
55. Since the 1940s, South African golfers have won more majors than any other nation, apart from the United States.
56. SA houses one of the 3 largest telescopes in the world at Sutherland in the Karoo.
57. Pratley Putty was invented by South African, George Pratley in the 1960s. It was carried by the Apollo 11 Eagle landing craft to the moon and has been used to halt cracking in main supports of the Golden Gate Bridge (in San Francisco).
58. The Barberton Mountain range in Mpumalanga is over 3.5 billion years old and remains one of the best preserved and least altered early Archaean rock formations in the world. A bacterial micro fossil Archaeospheroides barbertonis was discovered here and is believed to have been one of the first forms of life on earth.
59. South Africa's fish migration is so huge it can be seen from space. The Sardine run's shoals are 15 km long, 3.5 km wide and up to 40m deep.
60. The Kruger National Park supports the greatest variety of wildlife species on the African continent.
61. The Cango Caves near Oudtshoorn (in the Western Cape) is the world's longest underground cave sequence.
62. South Africa has the 3rd highest level of biodiversity (according to SA Tourism).
63. South Africa has the 2nd oldest film industry in the world.
64. Rooibos tea is naturally caffeine-free and is only found in the Cederberg in the Western Cape province.
65. South Africa's tap water is considered to be the third best and safest water in the world that is ready to drink.