

People of South Africa

A Rainbow Nation

The expression “Rainbow Nation” was coined by Archbishop Desmond Tutu at the advent of democracy in 1994. South Africa is often called “the Rainbow Nation” because many different languages are spoken and because of the diversity of its multicultural society. Below you can see people of the Ndebele tribe.



The Cradle of Humankind

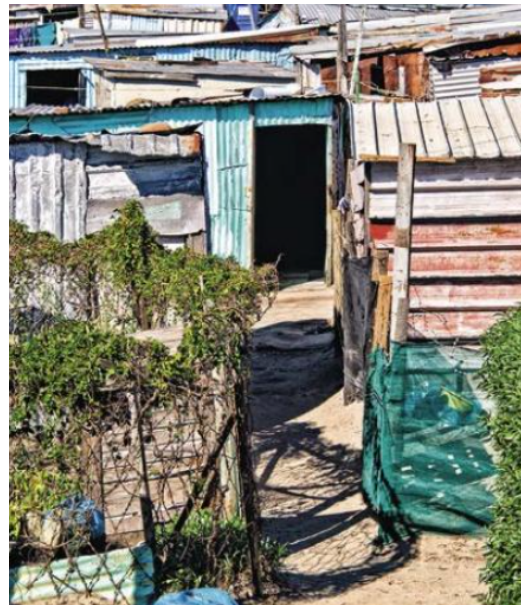
South Africa is often called “the Cradle of Humankind” because ancient tools and human remains prove that people lived in the area more than 100,000 years ago. The ancient San and the Khoi were the early African civilizations that settled in the Cape. Nowadays, there are only a few descendants of the local San people living in the Karoo desert and near the Cape West Coast.

The biggest South African population group, the Zulu, mainly live in rural settlements in KwaZulu-Natal. They even have a king.

Portuguese, Dutch, British, French and German explorers travelled and populated Southern Africa in the 17th and 18th centuries and therefore you can find many European influences in South Africa too.

Living in South Africa

Nowadays most of the people in South Africa live in or near the big cities: Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban and Cape Town. The rural areas are still very poor and in the cities many people live in shantytowns (the picture to the right) or townships.



Left-hand traffic in South Africa

Did you know that in South Africa cars drive on the left-hand side of the road as they do in the UK and Australia? However, all distance and speed signs are in metres, kilometres and km/hour and not as in England in yards, miles and miles/hour!