

STRETCH YOUR RAND IN EUROPE

SMART TRAVEL TIPS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISTS



TRAVEL BUDGETING TIPS

FLIGHTS: BOOK SMART

- Last-minute flights? Use platforms like <u>Google</u>
 <u>Flights</u>, <u>Skyscanner</u>, and <u>Travelstart</u> to compare fares quickly.
- Be flexible with dates and times flying midweek (Tues/Wed) or at off-peak hours can save you money.
- Consider flying into alternative airports Milan instead of Zurich, or Bratislava instead of Vienna.
- Check airline websites directly for flash sales and last-minute deals.

GET AROUND FOR LESS

- <u>Eurail Global Pass</u>: Unlimited travel across 33 countries – great for spontaneous, flexible travel.
- Budget airlines (<u>Ryanair</u>, <u>Wizz Air</u>, <u>EasyJet</u>) still have deals – pack light to avoid baggage fees.
- City transport passes offer savings on metros, buses, and trams.
- Walk or rent bikes/scooters cheap and immersive.

EAT LIKE A LOCAL

- Skip tourist traps look for locals and lunchtime set menus (menu del día).
- Shop at local markets or supermarkets (<u>Lidl</u>, <u>Carrefour</u>, Aldi).
- Street food & bakeries (especially in Italy, France, and Greece) offer delicious, affordable bites.
- Cook your own meals if your stay allows European groceries are surprisingly affordable.

USE YOUR RAND WISELY

- Use <u>Wise</u> or <u>Revolut</u> cards for better exchange rates and low fees.
- Avoid converting cash at airports use ATMs in city centres.
- Notify your bank before travelling to avoid card blocks.

ACCOMMODATION HACKS

- Even in June, affordable stays can be found. Use filters on <u>Airbnb</u> or <u>Booking.com</u> to sort by price and free cancellation.
- Try hostels like **Generator** or **Meininger**.
- Check <u>Couchsurfing</u> or house sitting sites like <u>TrustedHousesitters</u> or <u>MindMyHouse</u> for budgetfriendly options.

SIGHTSEEING ON A BUDGET

- <u>Free walking tours</u> (tip-based) in major cities great orientation & stories.
- <u>City passes</u> (like the <u>Paris Pass</u> or <u>Berlin</u>
 <u>WelcomeCard</u>) bundle transport + attractions.
- Many museums and landmarks offer free entry on the first Sunday of the month or during late hours.
- Explore parks, beaches, old towns, and markets –
 Europe's best sights are often free.

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS THAT SAVE YOU MONEY

- <u>Packing cubes</u>: Save space and avoid baggage fees.
- Power bank & universal adapter: Avoid overpriced airport buys.
- Reusable water bottle or <u>Thermomug</u> (if you like your water cold): Tap water is drinkable in most European countries.
- <u>Travel insurance</u>: Protects your trip and wallet in emergencies.

