

LOGISTICS NOTE

The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), Sustainable Seas Trust (SST), and the Nairobi Convention would like to extend a warm and hearty welcome to all delegates attending the 12th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium. We hope that your stay in South Africa will be fruitful and enjoyable. To our online participants, we hope that you will find the virtual experience interactive and informative.

Symposium Venue

The 12th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium will be held at the Boardwalk Convention Centre in Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa. Situated only a few minutes away from the Blue Flag-awarded Hobie Beach, the Boardwalk is not only popular for its Premier Luxury hotel but also features a unique entertainment, dining, and conference venue.

Where to Stay

Nelson Mandela Bay offers a wide variety of accommodation offerings to suit any kind of budget and every kind of tourist. Perfectly situated in the heart of Nelson Mandela Bay's tourist attraction hub, the Boardwalk Convention Centre, the appointed Symposium venue, is a stone's throw away from Nelson Mandela Bays' breathtaking swimming beaches, trendy cafés, restaurants, bars, and other amenities. The suburb surrounding the Convention Centre is approximately a 20-minute drive away from Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport, making it the perfect location to stay during your visit. See the accommodation options here: <https://symposium.wiomsa.org/accommodation-2022/>

Getting There: Transport

Shuttles will be organised to pick up delegates on Saturday, 8th October, and Sunday, 9th October 2022 from Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport to take them to the designated symposium hotels. Departure transfers will be provided on Saturday, 15th October, and Sunday, 16th October 2022. The shuttle timetable for departure days will be posted on the conference notice board. The airport is a 20-minute drive away from the Symposium venue. **Participants arriving in South Africa and departing on other dates will need to organise and pay for their airport shuttle services personally.**

Entry Requirements

Foreigners seeking to enter South Africa are subject to the following entry requirements: a passport or travel document which is valid for not less than six months; where applicable, a visitors [visa](#), a return ticket, a letter of invitation, and a hotel booking confirmation letter

Health and Covid-Entry Requirements

Passengers **no longer need to meet any coronavirus-related entry requirements**. The South African government has now removed all restrictions for travelers, whether vaccinated or not. Therefore, there is no need to present a [negative COVID-19 PCR test](#) or a vaccination certificate to gain entry to the country. Nevertheless, **passengers may still be subject to medical screening** on arrival and South Africa's travel restrictions during the coronavirus

pandemic may still be subject to change. Travelers should check this [page](#) to ensure they have all the latest information before making arrangements.

Travelers from yellow fever-affected countries require inoculations to enter South Africa; therefore delegates are advised to bring yellow fever vaccination cards. Please consult your physician prior to travel on other health precautions to take before traveling to South Africa. All participants are advised to get travel and health insurance; the Symposium organisers will not cover medical costs in the eventuality of illness.

Services at the WIOMSA Symposium: The following services will be available at the Boardwalk:

- Health and safety officer and ambulance services, and
- Childminder and baby changing/nursing room.

About South Africa

South Africa, the southernmost [country](#) on the African continent, is renowned for its varied [topography](#), great natural beauty, and cultural [diversity](#), all of which have made the country a favoured destination for travelers. South Africa has three cities that serve as capitals: [Pretoria](#) (executive), [Cape Town](#) (legislative), and [Bloemfontein](#) (judicial).

[Johannesburg](#), the largest urban area in the country and a centre of commerce, lies at the heart of the populous [Gauteng](#) province. [Durban](#), a port on the [Indian Ocean](#), is a major industrial centre. [East London](#) and [Gqeberha](#), both of which lie along the country's southern coast, are important commercial, industrial, and cultural centres.

Time

South African Standard Time (SAST) is the [time zone](#) used by all of [South Africa](#); Greenwich Meridian Time +2 hours

Taxes

VAT is levied at a standard rate of 15 % on the supply of goods and services by registered vendors. There is a limited range of goods and services which are subject to VAT at the zero rate or are exempt from VAT.

Currency

The South African rand, or simply the rand (ZAR), is the official currency of South Africa. The banknotes of R200, R100, R50, R20, R10 can be withdrawn from ATM machines or obtained from forex exchange bureaus (passports will be required). The exchange rate for ZAR to the dollars is 1.00 US Dollar =17.91Rand.

Communication

South Africa has four licensed mobile operators: MTN, Vodacom, Cell C, and Telkom (Mobile). Local sim cards can be obtained at the airport. The Symposium venue will have free Wi-Fi services for delegates' use.

Travel Adaptors

In South Africa, there are **four associated plug types, namely types C, D, M and N**. Plug type C is the plug which has two round pins, plug type D is the plug which has three round pins in a triangular pattern, and plug types M and N both have three round pins. South Africa operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz.



Things to see and do in Nelson Mandela bay

Nelson Mandela Bay (Gqeberha, Uitenhage, Despatch, and Colchester) has something to offer everyone. Explore the diverse attractions on offer and never be bored - from adventure and sports to arts and cultural ventures, from wildlife and nature tourism to coastal and beach excursions - Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality has tourist activities to suit every budget. Read more here: https://www.nmbt.co.za/attractions_port_elizabeth.html

Eating out in Gqeberha

The diversity of cultures in Nelson Mandela Bay, together with its superb positioning, makes it an interesting and exciting culinary destination. Home-grown oysters and citrus, tender lamb shanks made with a rosemary and garlic sauce, Malay mutton curry served with basmati rice, patty pans and prickly pears, potjiekos and home-made bread – what more could you want? Gqeberha is an eclectic city and is home to some of South Africa's best restaurants and chefs. Gqeberha boasts a wide variety of restaurants to suit every budget and serves many different types of cuisines. See the range of places to eat here: <https://www.dining-out.co.za/restaurants/Port-Elizabeth-Gqeberha/355> and here: [Tourism Portal - Nelson Mandela Bay \(Port Elizabeth\) \(nmbt.co.za\)](https://www.tourismportal.co.za/Port-Elizabeth-Gqeberha)

Tipping

Tipping is standard practice in South Africa. It is advised to tip your waiter or waitress 10 to 20 % of your total bill. Most waiters and waitresses earn a minimum wage, but they do rely heavily on their tips to make a living. Some restaurants will automatically add a standard service charge of 10 % for big groups, but it is advisable to check this with the manager. If a standard service charge is charged, it is up to the patron to decide whether to add to the tip, depending on the service received.

Moving Around Nelson Mandela Bay

For moving around the city, Uber/Bolt are the best travel options. Transport can also be arranged at the hotels and guesthouses.

Weather in October

October, like September, is an agreeable spring month in Gqerberha, South Africa. With an average temperature fluctuating between 15.6°C (60.1°F) and 21°C (69.8°F), you can expect very pleasant temperatures during the day. It rains on average for a total of 7 days in October, with an average of 58mm (2.3in). October is known as one of the best months weather-wise in the region. So, what to wear in October? Bring a rain jacket in case of rain but also bring your shorts or a skirt, as it can be very warm or even hot during the day.