

# South Africa Tourism Report Q4 2016

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## Abstracts

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BMI View: Tourism plays a vital role in the South African economy and the country is home to the most developed tourism industry in Sub-Saharan Africa. Supporting infrastructure is relatively well developed, including several major international airports and an extensive road network which make most parts of the country accessible to visiting tourists. A broad range of tourism attractions are on offer, including popular safari holidays and beach holiday destinations. There are, however, significant headwinds to growth, including growing security concerns and regional insecurity.

### Key Updates And Forecasts

South Africa's hotel sector is attracting further investment. The luxury and boutique hotel segment in particular is growing in popularity with several new hotels under development including The Silo hotel in Cape Town which is due to open in late 2016.

The government continues to implement visa regulation updates to promote travel from key growth markets. A report in July 2016 notes that visitors from India will soon be able to utilise a simplified visa scheme, including access to 10 year visas for business travellers, following South Africa's addition to India's e-visa scheme earlier in 2016.

Following a fall in international arrivals in 2015, South Africa's inbound tourism market is expected to record a slim recovery in 2016 with tourist arrivals growing by 1.1% over the year to reach just under 9mn - around half a million short of the arrivals recorded in 2014. Tourism related spending is also expected to show a recovery, though only in local currency terms.



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