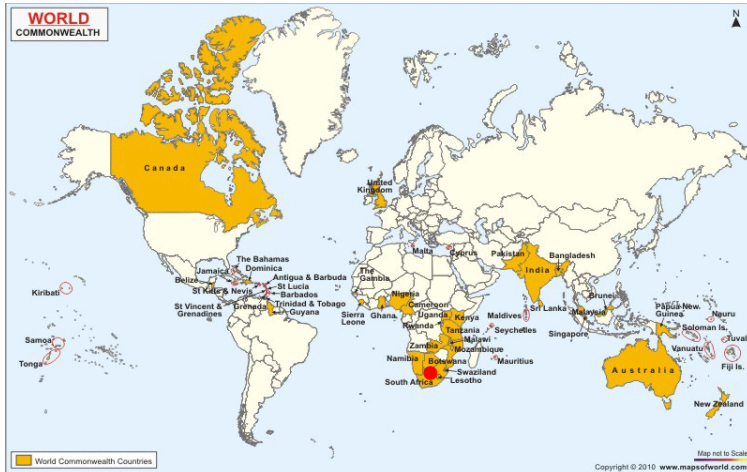




# South Africa

*Founder member of the Commonwealth 1931 - visited by the Queen in 1999*



**South Africa is a nation on the southernmost tip of the African continent**

Pop: (2013) 52,776,000      Capital: Pretoria      Area: 1,221,038 sq km

South Africa is a prosperous, rapidly industrialising country whose huge mineral wealth, among the largest in the world and including gold, diamonds, chromium, platinum and many others, accounts for over half its exports.

The ancient African plateau forming most of the country, is characterised by an undulating landscape dotted with koppies (round hills). The land falls away through the Great Escarpment to the coastal belt. Climate varies with altitude and continental position from that of Mediterranean in the lush wine growing region of the Western Cape to the continental in the highveld and the arid in the Kalahari. Fresh water is a problem as, apart from the Orange and Limpopo, South Africa lacks any major rivers.

Many native species of flora have been developed into garden flowers and are now found all over the world. The huge variety of bird and animal life including all the big game animals attracts much needed tourist revenue. Kruger National Park, only one of South Africa's nineteen national parks, is considered to be one of the finest in the world.

*Ouch! A leopard meets with a far from spineless adversary in Kruger National Park*

