

SOUTH AFRICA MANDATORY SARS ONLINE TRAVELLER DECLARATION

Effective 1 July 2026

Travellers will not be denied entry into or departure from South Africa solely because they have not completed a declaration before arriving at a port of entry. SARS officials and self-service terminals will assist travellers who could not complete it beforehand but we would suggest completing before to avoid delays on arrival.

WHAT IS THE SARS ONLINE TRAVELLER DECLARATION?

The South African Revenue Service (SARS) has introduced a mandatory online Traveller Declaration for travellers entering or departing South Africa.

The declaration forms part of the South African Customs process and allows travellers to declare goods, currency and other items that may require Customs clearance.

WHO NEEDS TO COMPLETE THE DECLARATION?

The declaration is required for:

- South African citizens
- Permanent residents
- Foreign visitors
- Travellers entering or departing South Africa by air, land or sea

Parents or legal guardians are responsible for completing the declaration on behalf of children travelling with them.

WHO IS EXEMPT?

The declaration is generally not required for air or sea passengers who are transiting through South Africa without leaving the international transit area.

WHEN MUST THE DECLARATION BE COMPLETED?

The declaration must be completed within 24 hours prior to your departure for South Africa.

For travellers with connecting flights, the declaration should be completed within 24 hours before the final flight directly to South Africa.

We recommend completing the declaration as soon as you become eligible within the 24-hour window to avoid any last-minute delays.

INFORMATION YOU MAY NEED

Please have the following available before starting your declaration:

- Passport details
- Flight or travel itinerary
- Contact information
- Details of accompanying travellers
- Details of any goods, cash or items that must be declared to Customs (where applicable)

IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY NOTICE

The SARS Online Traveller Declaration must be completed directly by the traveller, or by a parent/legal guardian on behalf of a minor.

As the declaration contains personal passport information, travel details and Customs declarations, we are unable to complete this declaration on behalf of our clients.

It is the responsibility of each traveller to ensure that the declaration is completed accurately and submitted within the required timeframe prior to travel.

Failure to comply with South African entry and exit requirements may result in delays or other action by the relevant authorities.

COMPLETE YOUR DECLARATION

The declaration can be completed online via the SARS Traveller Declaration Portal:
www.sars.gov.za/travellerdeclaration

Travellers may also use the South African Traveller Management System (SATMS) mobile application, where available.

AFTER SUBMITTING YOUR DECLARATION

Once your declaration has been successfully submitted, SARS will issue an electronic confirmation. We recommend saving a copy on your mobile device or printing a copy, as Customs officials may request to see it upon arrival into or departure from South Africa.

COMPLETE YOUR DECLARATION

The declaration can be completed online via the SARS Traveller Declaration Portal or through the South African Traveller Management System (SATMS) mobile application.

DISCLAIMER

The information provided above is intended as a guide only and is based on information available at the time of issue.

Entry, exit, Customs and immigration requirements are determined by the relevant government authorities and may change without notice. Travellers remain responsible for ensuring that they comply with all applicable travel requirements before departure.