



GEORGIA - SOUTH AFRICA COUNTRY CONNECTION

Government and Commerce

The South African Embassy in Washington, D.C., has jurisdiction over Georgia. Her Excellency Nomaindiya Cathleen Mfeketo serves as Ambassador of South Africa to the United States.

The South African American Chamber of Commerce in Atlanta was established in 2009 to promote the exchange of business, trade, investment, technology, and culture between South Africa and the U.S.

Georgia and the state of Western Cape, South Africa, are members of the Regional Leaders Summit (RLS), a strategic alliance of seven international regions from five continents fostering the exchange of best practices on topics of mutual interest. Georgia hosted the 2014 RLS in Atlanta.

In 2016, Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille signed a letter of intent with former Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed to deepen collaboration between the two cities. Atlanta will also be one of the partners on a new Center for American Studies supported by the Cape Town city government.

In 2007, native Georgian and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter joined Nelson Mandela in South Africa to announce the creation of a new humanitarian organization, The Elders, which focuses on issues such as poverty alleviation and human rights protection.

The Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development led a delegation of state officials and business leaders to South Africa to expand on business, trade and tourism opportunities in 2017.

Academics

In the Fall semester of 2022, 146 South African students will be enrolled in USG schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected study abroad programs around the world, but these programs are expected to return to former participation levels soon. In previous years, the University System of Georgia (USG) offered at least 22 study abroad programs to South Africa in education, history, business, animal science, and international affairs.

Both Emory University and the Georgia Institute of Technology offer study abroad programs to South Africa as well as exchanges with the University of Cape Town.

In June 2017, Clark Atlanta University hosted former President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative participants for the fourth consecutive year. This program's cohort consisted of 25 young leaders dedicated to promoting positive change throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. Participants represented 19 countries, including South Africa.

Arts, Culture and Tourism

COVID-19 severely impacted the tourism industry in Georgia, but international visitation is expected to reach past numbers soon. In 2021, 2,337 South African visitors spent nearly \$3.38 million in the state of Georgia.

Trenton, Georgia hosts an annual South African Festival celebrating with activities, food and entertainment highlighting South African culture.

Every August, the Alliance hosts a South African Women's Day Celebration in Atlanta bringing women together from across the globe.

In 2016, Culture Trip voted Atlanta's High Museum of Art as one of the top ten places in the U.S. to see African art. In celebration of its newly expanded gallery for African art, the High Museum showcased nearly 40 recent acquisitions of art from Africa to enter the permanent collection in 2016, including pieces from South Africa.

Atlanta is home to the South African Women's Alliance, a non-profit organization working to support advancement and empowerment programs for women.

In 2018, Grammy Award winning keyboard artist Kristian Bezuidenhout performed in the annual Savannah Music Festival.

International Trade

EXPORTS: In 2021, Georgia exports to South Africa totaled **\$135.9 million**. South Africa is the **51st** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to South Africa include poultry, chemical woodpulp, parts of motor vehicles, motor vehicles, and medical instruments.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to South Africa: poultry, tall oil, and kaolin.

IMPORTS: In 2021, Georgia imports from South Africa totaled **\$287.9 million**. South Africa ranks **38th** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from South Africa to Georgia include motor vehicles, flat-rolled iron and steel products, seats and chairs, tires, and granite.

Capital Investment

There are at least **20** Georgia companies with operation in South Africa, including but not limited to:

- AJC International
- Golden Peanut Company
- Halyard Health
- PIC Group
- Travelport
- UPS

There are at least **86 South African facilities operating in Georgia**. These South African-affiliated companies employ 330 Georgians.

Transportation

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport offers direct flights between Atlanta and Johannesburg. Delta Air Lines offers one-connection flights to Cape Town. 2020 international connectivity was limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. As restrictions ease, the airport expects a return to pre-COVID connections.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Brunswick offers container services to Durban and East London.

About GDEcD

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) plans, manages and mobilizes state resources to attract new business investment to Georgia, drive the expansion of existing industry and small business, locate new markets for Georgia products, inspire tourists to visit Georgia and promote the state as a top destination for arts events and film, music and digital entertainment projects. For more information, visit www.georgia.org.

*Information valid as of July 2022

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