

REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

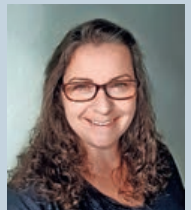
Editorial

DEAR READERS

A novelty in Namibia: Since 1 April 2025 you cannot visit the country anymore without a visa if you are a Swiss citizen. Paying the fee is one thing but the requirements are significantly higher, similar

to those of the Schengen visa (invitation, deed of surety, bank statement for 6 months, etc.). It remains to be seen how this will affect the popular tourist destination in the long run.

WARM REGARDS, GISELA PIERCEY



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR «SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA»

South Africa:

Federer meets Kolisi on South African trip to support early learning

Swiss tennis great Roger Federer met up with Springbok rugby captain Siya Kolisi on a visit to South Africa in February, where Federer's charitable foundation funds projects to try to get more children into schools and stop them dropping out.

Swiss tennis great Roger Federer met up with Springbok rugby captain Siya Kolisi on a visit to South Africa in February, where Federer's charitable foundation funds projects to try to get more children into schools and stop them dropping out.

Asked why he chose South Africa for his charity's work, Federer said it was a "natural fit" as his mother was from a Johannesburg suburb.

Sitting alongside Kolisi, the 20-times Grand Slam champion told reporters he was inspired by the rugby player's journey and wanted to do more to support early childhood education in the region.

His foundation has given grants worth millions of dollars for early learning projects across six Southern



Roger Federer and Springbok star Siya Kolisi pose for photographs after a press conference on the Roger Federer Foundation's work in early childhood education across Southern Africa in Johannesburg, South Africa.

REUTERS/Bhargav Acharya

African countries: South Africa, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Namibia.

Kolisi's rise from poverty to leading South Africa's national team to two Rugby World Cup wins is a story many in South Africa have rallied behind, and his foundation also funds education projects.

"Helping is contagious. I want to make sure that I speak of South Africa wherever I go. And I want to bring people to the communities that need help," Kolisi said.

A World Bank report released last week said South Africa faced a "learn-

ing crisis," with education outcomes too low for its level of development and shrinking state funding for basic education.

Around 1.2 million more children are expected to enter South Africa's school system by 2030, which would require an additional 20,000 classrooms and hiring 25,000 new teachers, the report said.

"(Children) need playgrounds ... and books to learn. But most importantly, they need passionate and knowledgeable teachers... and they need them by 2030," Federer said at a meeting with business leaders, urging them to work with his foundation on education projects.

Federer visited the Salani Primary School in South Africa's Mpumalanga province with Kolisi. He said he was

impressed by how people there worked together for children's welfare.

"I think we all have the power to help one another. I think getting together, that I think is the key for success," Federer said.

Source: Reuters

Namibia:

New Namibia visa should be easy to obtain



Citizens from 33 countries that do not reciprocate Namibia's visa waiver require a paid visa on arrival since 1 April 2025. These include Switzerland. Photos of the passports:

Wikipedia. Photo of Hosea Kutako International Airport: Sven-Eric Stender

Citizens from countries that do not grant Namibians visa-free travel should be able to obtain the upcoming necessary holiday visa smoothly. This was assured by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security (MHAISS) to the travel industry.

The Tour and Safari Association (TASA) announced the discussed regulations in a press release. Combined with what was already finalised, the picture is as follows.

- The visa requirement applies since 1 April 2025 to all citizens from countries that do not reciprocate Namibia's visa-free regime. These include Germany, Switzerland and Austria as well as the Netherlands, France and Italy. Great Britain and the USA are also on the list of 32 countries published by the Ministry of Home Affairs last year.

- The fee is 1,600 Namibia Dollar (currently just under 83 euros) for citizens of a country that is not a member of the African Union (for comparison: A Namibian pays 90 euros for a Schengen visa). There is no discount for children.

Visa available online and upon arrival

- It should be possible to apply for the visa online in advance using the application form available there. However, a website address has not yet been provided.

Editor's note from Namibian.org: The [existing application page for a holiday visa](#) does NOT apply to the new visa. It is aimed at citizens of countries for which a visa requirement has already existed for a long time.

The fee mentioned on this page is only N\$ 600. However, the requirements are significantly higher than those of the new visa. They are similar to those of the Schengen visa (invitation, deed of surety, bank statement for 6 months, etc.).

- The new visa, which comes into effect on 1 April, can also be applied for on arrival. The form required for this will replace the existing entry form, which is available on aeroplanes and at border posts.

- As is customary internationally, the Interpol database will be consulted when checking the visa application.

Visa fee also payable by credit card

- It is possible to pay the visa fee by credit card. The Ministry wants to equip the entry counters with card payment machines. This applies to the international airports near Windhoek and in Walvis Bay and the main border posts.

- The visa covers multiple entry, as required for cruise holiday-makers or in case of excursions to the Victoria Falls, for example.

- The exit form on departure will no longer be required in order to simplify the exit process and free up staff at the immigration counters.

- The Ministry intends to regularly review the list of countries with visa requirements by determining the visa regulations applying to Namibians in the countries concerned.

Sven-Eric Stender, Namibian.org

Zimbabwe and Zambia

SDC Partners Meeting charts a new course for sustainable development in Zimbabwe and Zambia

In February, Harare played host to an impactful meeting of development partners and stakeholders working alongside Switzerland in International Cooperation.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) convened a diverse group of representatives, from the United Nations and multilaterals such as the World Bank to international and local NGOs, to strategise on advancing development work amid a backdrop of global uncertainty.

The two-day meeting focused on key thematic areas designed to enhance synergy and effectiveness in challenging times. Participants delved into the following critical topics:

The Triple Nexus: Partners discussed how to seamlessly integrate development, humanitarian, and peace initiatives to create a more cohesive and resilient framework for action in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Strengthening synergies and collaboration: Emphasis was placed on Switzerland's implementing partners and the need for more effective coordination among diverse stakeholders.

Policy dialogue for durable change: In-depth discussions focused on strategic engagement, aiming to inform policy that not only responds to current challenges but also sets the stage for long-term sustainable impact.

Communication and visibility: Participants exchanged lessons from both successful and less effective communication initiatives, recognising the importance of clear messaging and transparency in driving positive change.

Tue-Sat 11-21h30

Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h

■ Our Clubs of Society: Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch, Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch.

PRO TICINO PRO GRISCHUN BOCCIA CLUB

Johannesburg

Contact: *Felix Gerber*

gerber.felix@icloud.com

CAPE TOWN

SWISS SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB

P.O. Box 2279, Cape Town, 8000

Contact: info@swissclub.co.za

PRESIDENT: *Christian Schiess*,

president@swissclub.co.za



SDC Partners Meeting charts a new course for sustainable development in Zimbabwe and Zambia © Embassy of Switzerland in Zimbabwe.

The Regional Consular Centre Southern Africa (RCC) in Pretoria informs

Update Your Contact Information Today

Don't miss out on information from the RCC in Pretoria. Update your contact information today at either the online desk or by e-mail to southernafrica@deda.admin.ch.

Consular Days in 2025

Planned for Angola, Mauritius and Mozambique

SWISS CLUB INFO

GAUTENG

SWISS SOCIETY ALPINA

Pretoria,

Contact: *Ross Blignaut*, President

C 082 851 0202

swissclub.alpina@gmail.com

ross.blignaut@gmail.com

Facebook: Swiss Club Alpina Pretoria

SWISS COUNTRY CLUB

31 Moerdyk Street, Midrand

Contact: *Max Waspe* 083 412 0161,

T 011 805 3039

office@swissclubjhb.co.za

Website: www.swissclubjhb.co.za/

SWISS COUNTRY CLUB REST

«The Courier», T 011 805 3040

Devan Govender, C 079 519 3563,

C 079 088 8233

VICE PRESIDENT/Treasurer: *Andreas Reichmuth*, treasurer@swissclub.co.za

C 083 297 3803

SECRETARY: *Chayenne Rusi*, secretary@swissclub.co.za

C 082 569 8446

SWISS RIFLE CLUB CAPE TOWN

PRESIDENT: *Dierk Lüthi*, C 083 441 4626 hdluthi@gmail.com

SECRETARY: *Eric (Pops) Fraser*

C 072 570 2915, popsfraser@gmail.com

Marcel Matusik C 082 650 0662

email: treasurer@swissrifleclub.capetown

website: <https://swissrifleclub.capetown>

Facebook: *swiss rifle club - cape town & swiss rifle club cape town.*

■ We shoot at the Navy's KLAVER shooting range off Red Hill road above Simon's Town, near "Just Nuisance" grave. Occasionally we use the Atlantis 'Good

Hope' range of the SA Army. In May we hold our popular 'Piggy Shoot' at the WCSU range, also near Atlantis.

KWAZULU-NATAL

SWISS CLUB NATAL

Durban

PRESIDENT: Kurt Bacher,

Contact: kurtbacher@mweb.co.za

<http://www.swissclubnatal.org.za/>

■ JASS EVENTS: This is held on the second Friday of each month and will commence at 2 p.m. and is held at Rolf Klein Jass Stube, 3 Bona Terra Road, Assagay (directions on our website).

■ SPORT TARGET SHOOTING:

Held on the 4th Saturday of each month (weather permitting) commencing at 08:30 a.m.- Nottingham Road (calendar available on our website).

*For more up-to-date information regarding times/venues/directions, please visit our most informative website – www.swissclubnatal.org.za

LIMPOPO

SWISS CLUB FAR NORTH

Modjadjiskloof

Contact: Francois Schwalb

C +27 76 945 3948

francois@zz2.co.za

CLUB SUISSE DE MAURICE

PRESIDENT: Rudolf Koller

C +230 5 802 55 50

clubsuissedemaurice@gmail.com

Facebook: [https://fr-fr.facebook.com/](https://fr-fr.facebook.com/swissclubmauritiu/)

swissclubmauritiu/

HONORARY CONSULATE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

DURBAN

CONSULAT HONORAIRE DE SUISSE /

HONORARY CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND IN DURBAN

Flat 1, Retford Hall

151 Lena Ahrens Road, Glenwood

Durban 4001

AFRIQUE DU SUD

T +27 83 767 28 32

Email: durban@honrep.ch

BOTSWANA

CONSULAT HONORAIRE DE SUISSE /

HONORARY CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND IN GABORONE

Bryte Risk Services Botswana

P. O. Box 1221, 7th Floor Building 2

(Fairscape Tower) Fairscape Precinct,

Plot 70667, Gaborone, Botswana

T +26 771 54 3491 or +26 73 635 010

Email: gaborone@honrep.ch

ZAMBIA

CONSULAT HONORAIRE DE SUISSE /

HONORARY CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND IN LUSAKA

697 Kalambo Road, North-End DBD

Lusaka, Zambia

T +260 211 224 580 or +260 211 225 436

Email: lusaka@honrep.ch

NAMIBIA

CONSULATE GENERAL HONORAIRE DE SUISSE /

HONORARY GENERAL CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND

IN WINDHOEK

Craft Café Namibia

Namibia Craft Centre

Old Breweries Building

40 Tal Street

Windhoek, Namibia

Telephone and Fax: +264 816 507 075

MAURITIUS

CONSULATE GENERAL HONORAIRE DE SUISSE / HONORARY

GENERAL CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND IN PORT LOUIS

24, avenue des Hirondelles

Quatre Bornes, Mauritius

T +230 427 55 07

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www.swiss-moving-service.ch

info@swiss-moving-service.ch

IMPRESSUM

DELEGATES OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

Hans-Georg Bosch, aso@hbosch.com

OSA – Delegate of the Council of the Swiss Abroad responsible for Southern Africa and representing Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Pierre-Yves Roten, pyroten@mac.com

OSA – Delegate of the Council of the Swiss Abroad responsible for Southern Africa and representing Mauritius

Gisela Piercey, giselapiercey@gmail.com

Editor of Swiss Review Southern Africa

NEXT REGIONAL ISSUE DEADLINES

Issue	Next Deadline	Distribution
03/25	20/06/2025	18/07/2025
04/25	08/09/2025	03/10/2025
05/25	22/11/2025	19/12/2025

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