

# **Information for Delegates**

## **AIMS-IMAGINARY Maths Communication Workshop Exhibition**

**November 05 – 07, 2014**

**AIMS-South Africa  
6-7 Melrose Place, Muizenberg  
Cape Town  
South Africa**

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## 1. About AIMS-South Africa - Host

The African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) in South Africa is the first among a pan-African network of Centres of Excellence for postgraduate training, research and public engagement in mathematical science. Launched in 2003, the success from AIMS-South Africa informed the birth of the AIMS-Next Einstein Initiative whose mandate is to launch a total of 15 AIMS Centres across Africa by 2023. Till date, AIMS Centres are operational in Senegal (2011), Ghana (2012) and Cameroon (2013), and its most recent Centre will be launched in October, 2014 in Tanzania. These Centres are coordinated by a secretariat situated in Claremont (South Africa).

In addition to its mathematical science training, research and public engagement programs, AIMS-South Africa serves as an ideal venue for numerous scientific events (conferences, workshops, seminars, meetings etc.) and at selected periods, could even accommodate delegates and other visitors coming to the Centre. Similar to the other AIMS Centres, students, lecturers, researchers and visitors eat together at the Centre, hence creating a robust, highly interactive, fun and exciting environment.

The Centre is situated in Muizenberg <http://muizenberg.info/muizenberg-the-place-to-be/> and close to the beach which makes it a unique gateway for academic visitors and event participants requiring a stimulating, relaxing and refreshing venue to accomplish dedicated activities.

Picture of Muizenberg with AIMS-South Africa



AIMS-South Africa

AIMS-South Africa is situated at 6 Melrose Rd, Muizenberg, Cape Town, South Africa

### **1.1. Directions from Cape Town International Airport to AIMS**

- Leave the airport on the Airport Approach road and take the N2 turn-off heading towards Cape Town.
- Approx. 6km further, take Exit 11 onto the M17 (Jan Smuts Drive).
- Approx. 1km further, at the first set of traffic lights, turn right onto the M18 (Klipfontein Road).
- Approx. 1 km further, turn left onto the M5 southbound (Kromboom Parkway). Note that the M5 changes name to Prince George Drive after approx. 7km.
- Approx. 18km after turning onto the M5, the road ends in a traffic circle. Turn right onto the R310. This is Baden Powell Drive / Royal Road/ Atlantic Beach Road.
- Approx. 1km further, there is a large parking lot to the left next to the community centre. Turn left into Beach Road after the parking lot.
- Take the first road to the right (just before a traffic circle). This is Melrose Road. AIMS is approx. 50m into the road, on the right.
- For any queries or problems, please contact AIMS at + 27 21 787 9320 or Igsaan at +27 72 216 5628.

## **2. Climate**

Spring, summer, winter and autumn are the four recognized seasons in South Africa. The South African Weather Service uses the following dates for seasons:

Spring: September through November

Summer: December through February

Autumn: March through May

Winter: June through August

Participants are kindly requested to check the exact weather conditions for November, when making final travel arrangements.

## **3. International travel**

### **3.1. Visa information**

You might require a visitor visa to be admitted into South Africa. Kindly visit your nearest South African Embassy or Mission abroad to obtain additional information. You will be provided with an invitation letter to facilitate your visa application process if you are selected to participate.

Generally, applicants would require the following documents to apply for a visa:

- A duly completed application form. Contact your nearest South African Embassy or Mission abroad to obtain the most recent version of this form.
- Application fee
- Original passport - Copies of passport and previous visas.

- Original bank payment / Electronic Fund Transfer receipt for each applicant.
- Original and copy of bank receipt per applicant in case of Repatriation.
- Invitation letter – This will be provided to selected workshop participants.
- Passport valid for no less than 30 calendar days after expiry of the intended visit. A passport copy is required while submitting the application.
- A medical report. Kindly obtain the medical report template from your nearest South African Mission abroad.
- A radiological report. Kindly obtain the radiological report template from your nearest South African Mission abroad.
- Marriage certificate or in the case of a foreign spousal relationship, proof of official recognition thereof issued by the authorities of the foreign country of the applicant (where applicable).
- Proof of a union recognised in terms of the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 1998 (Act No. 120 of 1998), where applicable.
- Divorce decree, where applicable.
- Death certificate, in respect of late spouse, where applicable.
- Legal separation order, where applicable.
- Police clearance certificates in respect of applicants 18 years and older, in respect of all countries where person resided one year or longer.
- A vaccination certificate, if required by the Act.
- An employment offer or letter from your employer permitting you to travel for the specified period, where applicable

Please make sure that you do not stay beyond the dates indicated in your visa. If you stay beyond these dates you could be fined or be denied access the next time you visit South Africa.

### **3.2. Booking your flight**

The closest airport to the workshop venue is the Cape Town International Airport. Do note that some international flights might transit through the OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg (South Africa) before proceeding to the Cape Town International Airport. In this case, travelers might be required to go through passport control at the OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, pick-up their checked baggage(s) before checking into their connecting flights. Always ask your flight assistant if you are not sure about the procedure to follow.

Once you book your flight, kindly [download, complete, and email this form](#) to [aims-workshop@imaginary.org](mailto:aims-workshop@imaginary.org) to communicate your flight itinerary to us in order to ensure a timely pick-up from the airport and drop off.

Comprehensive travel insurance might be required from your home country. Please make sure that you have the necessary health certificates that may be required to enter the country.

### **3.3. Local travel**

All participants are kindly requested to indicate during the registration process if they require transportation from the Cape Town airport to their hotels. Delegates who will be lounging

outside of Muizenberg (near the event venue) will be required to pay an additional cost for daily transportation to the event venue as indicated below. Your participation will only be guaranteed once all payments have been received.

#### 4. Accommodation

All participants are responsible for the cost of their accommodation. Kindly indicate your need for accommodation during the registration process. Should it be impossible to obtain a space for you at Surfer Corner or Bella Ev Guesthouse in Muizenberg, you will be informed and might have to secure alternative accommodation.

Should you wish to reserve your own accommodation, below are a list of places which you could consider. Although these are about 30 minutes from the workshop venue, it is accessible by metered taxis at an additional cost of about \$40 to \$60 per day per return trip. Kindly note: you will be responsible for these payments although we can assist you in organizing reliable metered taxis services.

##### 4.1. Accommodation in other Hotels

| Name                      | Address and contact   | Approximate daily rates |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Little Scotia Guesthouse  | 5 Rustenburg Avenue, Rondebosch.<br><a href="http://www.scotia.co.za">www.scotia.co.za</a><br>Tel: +27 21 686 8245<br>info@scotia.co.za           | From R 750              |
| Southern Sun – Newlands   | 7 Main road, Newlands<br><a href="http://www.tsogosunhotels.com">www.tsogosunhotels.com</a><br>Tel +27 21 683 6562                                | From R 1 470            |
| Mountain View Guest House | 13 Sans Souci Road, Newlands<br><a href="http://www.mountainviewcapetown.com">www.mountainviewcapetown.com</a><br>Tel: +27 21 683 3393            | From R700               |
| Riversong Guesthouse      | 14 Esme Road, Newlands<br><a href="http://www.riversongguesthouse.co.za">www.riversongguesthouse.co.za</a><br>Tel: +27 21 683 8394                | From R800               |
| Hart Cottage              | 15 Marne Avenue, Claremont<br><a href="http://www.capestay.co.za/hartcottage/">http://www.capestay.co.za/hartcottage/</a><br>Tel: +27 21 671 2378 |                         |

#### 5. Information on South Africa

Obtained from <http://www.southafrica.net/za/en/guides/entry/South-Africa-at-a-glance>

### **5.1. Geography**

Situated at the southern tip of Africa, South Africa is 1 233 404km<sup>2</sup> in size and is edged on three sides by nearly 3 000km of coastline, with the Indian Ocean to the east and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The country is bordered in the north by Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and also encloses two independent countries, the kingdoms of Lesotho and Swaziland.

### **5.2. Capitals**

South Africa has three capitals: Cape Town (legislative), Pretoria (administrative) and Bloemfontein (judicial).

### **5.3. Provinces**

There are nine provinces in South Africa, namely: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West and Western Cape.

The South African flag is a much-loved symbol of the 'new' South Africa. It comprises a geometric pattern of green, white, black, gold, red and blue.

### **5.4. National symbols**

South Africa's national bird is the blue crane. The national animal is the springbok; the national fish, the galjoen; the national flower, the giant or king protea; and the national tree, the yellowwood.

South Africa's national anthem is based on the Xhosa hymn, Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika (God Bless Africa), composed by Enoch Sontonga in 1897, and Die Stem van Suid-Afrika (The Call of South Africa).

### **5.5. Languages**

South Africa is a multilingual country and there are 11 official languages, namely: English, Afrikaans, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Siswati, Tshivenda and Xitsonga. Although only about 10% of the population has English as its mother tongue, English is the language most widely understood, and is the second language of the majority of South Africans.

### **5.6. Plugs and sockets**

In South Africa the standard voltage is 230 V. The standard frequency is 50 Hz. The power sockets that are used are of type D / M. Below you find pictures of these power sockets and corresponding plugs.



Exchange rate as of September 02, 2014

1 USD = R10.74

1 Euro = R14.08

### 5.7. Religion

About 80% of South Africa's population is Christian. Other major religious groups include Hindus, Muslims, Jews and Buddhists. A minority does not belong to any of the major religions. The Constitution guarantees freedom of worship.

### 5.8. Currency

South Africa's currency is the rand, which offers visitors great value for money. The rand comes in a range of coins (R1 = 100 cents) and note denominations of R10, R20, R50, R100 and R200.

Please ensure that you exchange foreign currency at the airport as these facilities are not readily available in Muizenberg. Cape Town International Airport has a 24-hour foreign exchange service, as well as various cash machines.

**Traveller's cheques could be exchanged in most of the banks in South Africa.** There is an exchange fee and you will need proof of purchase and passport to attest ownership of the cheques you want cashed.

**Credit / Debit Card:** American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are accepted. Please check with your credit or debit Card Company for details of merchant acceptability and other services, which may be available.

**Forex Bureaus and Money Exchange:** South Africa has several Forex Bureaus where one can change currency to either local or foreign currency. These Forex Bureaus have rates that change from day to day.

Most banks operate from Mon - Fri 09:00 - 15:30, Sat 09:00 - 12:30.

### 5.9. Tips and Tipping

As a rough guide: give 10% to 15% to a waitron in a restaurant; about US\$10 (or equivalent) per day to your safari ranger.

### 5.10. Security

Use common sense and take basic safety precautions. Keep valuables locked away and don't wear expensive watches or jewellery, flash expensive cameras, or walk in deserted areas. Keep car doors and windows locked at all times. If in doubt, ask a guide or at your



accommodation for safety guidelines. For your own safety it is important that you do not walk around late at night.

### **5.11. Smoking**

Smoking is banned in public places, but there are usually designated areas where people can smoke. Under-18s may not enter a designated smoking area or buy cigarettes.

### **5.12. Disability**

There are facilities for disabled people (although fewer than in the United States or many parts of Europe). All major hotels will have facilities for disabled people. When renting a vehicle, discuss special needs and parking dispensations with the car-hire company.

### **5.13. Emergency numbers**

- City of Cape Town emergency number (from public phones or landline) for police, fire, ambulance & traffic - 107 and from a cellphone, call **021 480 7700**.
- Emergencies - 10111
- Ambulance - 10177
- Difficulty with emergency services - 1022
- Police - 1011
- Rescue service (aviation) - 083-1999
- Medical rescue - 0800-111-990

## **6. Things you could do in Cape Town**

### **6.1. Catch a cable car up Table Mountain...**

If you fancy following a rope 112 metres down Table Mountain (and we'd recommend it as the world's highest commercial abseil even if it wasn't for the views), then Abseil Africa (297 Long Street, [www.abseilafrika.co.za](http://www.abseilafrika.co.za)) is your best bet. The less adventurous can catch the [Table Mountain Aerial Cableway](#) up... and back down. The quick ride will give you a bird's eye view of the City Bowl. The summit can also be reached on foot through a multitude of beautiful albeit exhausting, trails. If you want a longer experience – spending up to five nights in tented camps – take the long-distance Hoerikwaggo Trail ([www.sanparks.org](http://www.sanparks.org)) up from the Cape of Good Hope.

### **6.2. Dive into shark-infested waters**

South Africa has an incredibly diverse shark population. Adrenalin junkies will want to make the 175-kilometre (110-mile) journey to Gansbaai, the white shark capital of the world. Try Great White Shark Tours ([www.sharkcagediving.net](http://www.sharkcagediving.net)); Marine Dynamics ([www.sharkwatchesouthafrica.com](http://www.sharkwatchesouthafrica.com)); Shark Diving Unlimited ([www.sharkdivingunlimited.com](http://www.sharkdivingunlimited.com)). Alternatively, take the safer option and visit the [Two Oceans Aquarium](#). The I&J Predator Tank is the pièce de résistance, with its mob of ocean predators, including ragged tooth sharks, blue stingrays and black mussel crackers, all drifting together in seeming harmony – until feeding time, that is (3pm).

### **6.3. Get the gastronomy juices flowing**

See all [restaurants & cafés in Cape Town](#)

#### **6.4. Take a lesson in South African history**

[Robben Island](#) and the [District Six Museum](#) are must-visits for anyone interested in South Africa's period of apartheid, which came to an end in 1990.

The fascinating and inspirational Robben Island is a symbol both of centuries of cruel oppression and the triumph of hope. It has become synonymous with the former leader of the free and democratic South Africa, Nelson Mandela, who spent 18 years in its maximum security prison.

#### **6.5. Toast the Cape Winelands**

The famous Cape Winelands feel like a different world. There are rolling vineyards, towering mountains, historic wine estates, and more than enough wine to keep even the thirstiest old soak satisfied. Visit the Cape Town & Western Cape tourist board website ([www.tourismcapetown.co.za](http://www.tourismcapetown.co.za)) for general information about the Winelands. For regional tourist board websites you could visit: Paarl ([www.paarlonline.com](http://www.paarlonline.com)), Franschhoek ([www.franschhoek.org.za](http://www.franschhoek.org.za)) and Stellenbosch ([www.tourismstellenbosch.co.za](http://www.tourismstellenbosch.co.za)).

Visit <http://www.capetown.travel/attractions> for other points of attractions in Cape Town.

### **7. Additional Information**

There will be restricted access to AIMS-South Africa and only those attending the conference or staying at the hotel will be allowed onto the property. Before arriving at the conference venue for the first time, please be sure to print out, and bring with you, your confirmation form to finalize the registration process. This will ensure that you will be allowed access to the venue in a timely manner. Upon registration, you will receive your badge and workshop materials. Please wear this badge visibly at all times during the event: A badge is mandatory for entry to the venue and for meals. Please note that if you do not have either your registration upon initial arrival or your badge on subsequent days, you may experience delays.

Kindly ensure that all invoices relating to participation are settled prior to the start of the event. You will be informed about how to make payments once your registration is approved.

The Information and Registration Desk Staff will be happy to help you with any questions you may have during the event.

The workshop and exhibition sessions will for most part of the event happen in parallel. Participants for the workshop will have dedicated time slots during which they can visit the exhibition space. Kindly respect these schedules as many schools will be visiting the exhibition space as well.

The science fair event is opened to all workshop participants. We hope you will be able to join the rest of the attendees on the afternoon of the 07 November, 2014.

Participants interested in attending the special dinner will be provided with further information about the venue during the workshop.

A full agenda will be developed and shared at least three weeks before the start of the event.

## **8. Additional contacts**

For additional information contact the organizers at: [aims-workshop@imaginary.com](mailto:aims-workshop@imaginary.com) or call +27 768230110.

You can also visit the website on: <http://imaginary.org/event/aims-imaginary-maths-communication-in-africa>

**We look forward to welcoming you to this exciting event!**