

South Africa 2026

Public holiday calendar

Date	Day	Holiday	Type
Jan 1	Thursday	New Year's Day	Public holiday
Mar 21	Saturday	Human Rights Day Human Rights Day falls on a Saturday in 2026. The Public Holidays Act grants a Monday substitute only when a holiday falls on a Sunday, so there is no extra day off for this Saturday holiday.	Public holiday
Apr 3	Friday	Good Friday	Public holiday
Apr 6	Monday	Family Day	Public holiday
Apr 27	Monday	Freedom Day	Public holiday
May 1	Friday	Workers' Day	Public holiday
Jun 16	Tuesday	Youth Day	Public holiday
Aug 9	Sunday	National Women's Day	Public holiday
Aug 10	Monday	National Women's Day (observed) National Women's Day (Aug 9) falls on a Sunday in 2026. Under the Public Holidays Act, whenever a public holiday falls on a Sunday the following Monday is also a public holiday - so Monday Aug 10 is a day off.	Substitute holiday
Sep 24	Thursday	Heritage Day	Public holiday
Nov 4	Wednesday	Local Government Elections One-off ad-hoc holiday: President Ramaphosa announced Wednesday 4 November 2026 as a public holiday for the local government elections, consistent with the precedent of declaring election days public holidays so voters can vote.	Public holiday
Dec 16	Wednesday	Day of Reconciliation	Public holiday
Dec 25	Friday	Christmas Day	Public holiday
Dec 26	Saturday	Day of Goodwill Day of Goodwill falls on a Saturday in 2026. There is no Monday substitute for Saturday holidays - the Act grants one only when a holiday falls on a Sunday.	Public holiday