



19th Annual International
Biocuration Conference

GENERAL INFORMATION

20 - 24 April 2026
Cape Town, South Africa





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OVERVIEW

The International Society of Biocuration (ISB), together with the African Bioinformatics Institute (ABI), the African Genomics Data Hub (AfriGen-D) and the Sickle Africa Data Coordinating Center (SADaCC), are organizing the 19th Annual International Biocuration Conference, which will be held for the first time on the African continent, from 20 to 24 April 2026, in Cape Town, South Africa. **The 19th Annual International Biocuration Conference** brings together curators, developers, as well as clinical and life sciences data users to share knowledge, foster collaboration and advance the growing field of biocuration. Delegates will engage with the latest tools, methodologies, and best practices in the discipline.

CONFERENCE VENUE

The conference will be hosted at [the Lagoon Beach Hotel Conference Centre and Spa](#), a beachfront venue in Milnerton, offering panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean, Table Mountain and the Cape Town skyline. Located just 20 minutes from Cape Town International Airport, with easy access to the city centre, the hotel combines professional conference facilities with modern and comfortable accommodation, restaurants, a spa and recreational activities, making it an ideal and welcoming setting for participants.

Venue Address: 1 Lagoon Gate Drive, Lagoon Beach, Cape Town, 7441

Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/USsbXY9rTJBbFQWc9>





ACCOMMODATION

Numerous accommodation options are available for conference attendees, ranging in price and distance from the conference venue. ***These are listed below:***

- **Lagoon Beach Hotel Conference Centre and Spa** (Conference venue), a beachfront hotel in Milnerton, offering panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean, Table Mountain and the Cape Town skyline.
- **StayEasy Century City Hotel** (about 10-15 minutes, ~7km, by car from the conference venue), ideally located near the Bloubergstrand beach, making it suitable for both leisure and business trips.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

An optional list of hotel choices is available below for delegates who prefer to stay at hotels other than those blocked by the organizing committee.

- **Century City Conference Centre & Hotel**, 4 Energy Ln, Century City, Cape Town, 7446 (distance from conference venue: ~13-14 min, ~8km).
- **Colosseum Hotel**, Corner of Century Way, Ratanga Rd, Century City, Cape Town, 7441 (distance from conference venue : ~13-14 min, ~8-9km).
- **Marriott Hotel Crystal Towers**, Corner Of Century Boulevard And, Rialto Rd, Century City, Cape Town, 7441 (distance from conference venue : ~12-13 min, ~8-9km).
- **Century City Hotel Urban Square**, 3 Energy Ln, Century City, Cape Town, 7446 (distance from conference venue : ~11-14 min, ~8km).
- **Century City Hotel**, Bridgewater, 4 Conference Ln, Century City, Cape Town, 7446 (distance from conference venue : ~12-14 min, ~8km).
- **Blaauwberg Beach Hotel**, 106 Beach Blvd, Bloubergstrand, Cape Town, 7441 (distance from conference venue : ~14 min, ~10km).
- **Graduate School of Business, Protea Hotel**, Portwood Rd, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Cape Town, 8001 (distance from conference venue : ~11-15 min, ~9.6km).
- **Protea Hotel by Marriott Cape Town Mowbray**, situated in the leafy southern suburbs of Cape Town (about 15 minutes, ~7km, by car from the conference venue), combines historic charm with modern comfort.
- **The President Hotel**, 4 Alexander Rd, Bantry Bay, Cape Town, 8001 (distance from conference venue : ~20 min, ~13.6km).





AIRPORT TRANSFER, TAXIS AND SHUTTLE

Delegates can easily arrange transportation from and to Cape Town International Airport, as well as local travel within the city, through many means such as:

- Hotel shuttles are available through desk services. For Lagoon Beach Hotel Conference Centre and Spa shuttle service please email: lbh@evotransfers.co.za.
- Uber
- Taxis are available at the airport desks.

Alternative transfer and shuttle services options:

- **EZ Shuttle Airport Services** : One of the largest transfer/shuttle providers in South Africa, offering transport solutions across all major cities. Booking services available via the following link [EZ Shuttle Airport Shuttle Services – Transfers Across South Africa](#).
- **Prestige Movements** : This service offers several packages for transport between Cape Town International Airport and the Lagoon Beach Hotel. For package details and bookings, please contact the Local Transport Officer by email at nmsephoko@gmail.com or by phone at +27682948484.

For those delegates whose travel and accommodation are funded by the organizers (guest speakers, travel awardees), airport transfers will be arranged.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Passport requirement

Delegates travelling to South Africa must be in possession of a valid passport that:

- Will still be valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of departure from South Africa.
- Have at least two unused pages for endorsements.

Visa requirements

Requirements for visitors' visas differ from country to country and are subject to change, so please check the appropriate requirements with your local South African representative.

Some countries are exempt from visas, and thus, citizens from those nations don't require one in order to enter South Africa. ***A list of all countries that do not currently require a visa can be found at the South African Government website:***

<https://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/immigration-services/exempt-countries>





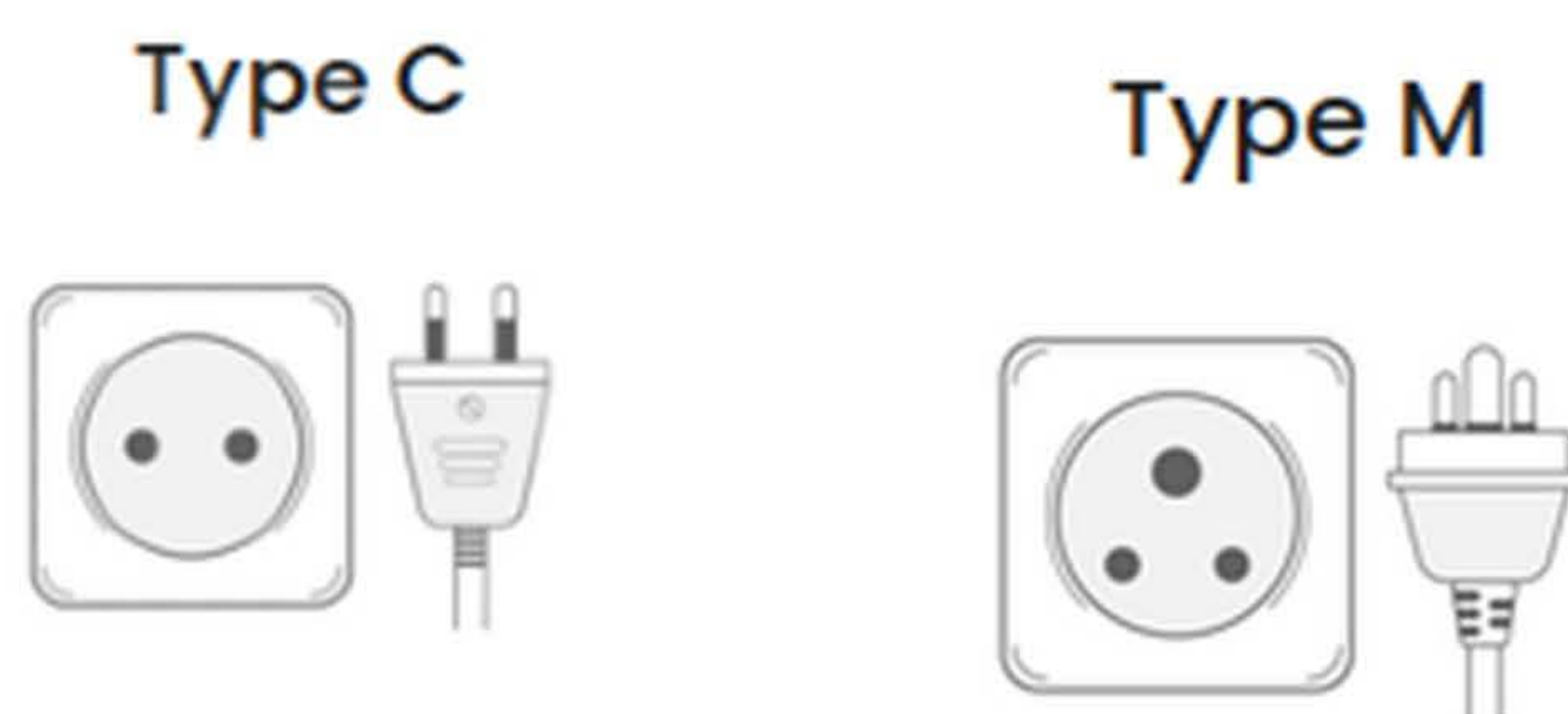
Travellers from countries that require a visa can apply for one either through a South African diplomatic representative or a travel agent, and it indicates that a South African embassy or consulate has declared that the applicant is eligible to enter the country for a specific purpose. Visas can be issued for both tourism and business purposes. Visas are generally valid for a stay of up to 90 days, though the exact duration depends on the allowance granted.

For any further requirements regarding a South African visa, please check the following link:

<https://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/immigration-services/apply-for-a-south-african-visa>.

ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR TRAVELERS

Most of South Africa's electricity system operates on a Type M and Type C electrical plug socket with a 220-240 V voltage capacity and a 50 Hz frequency. Most hotels also provide dual-voltage two-pin razor sockets, supporting both 100-120 volts and 220-240 volts. ***However, visitors are advised to bring a suitable travel adapter if their devices use a different plug type.***



South Africa has previously experienced scheduled power cuts (known as loadshedding), implemented by Eskom, the national power utility in South Africa, to manage the pressure due to high demand. While electricity supply has been stable recently, delegates should be aware that loadshedding may occur in the future. The EskomSePush application provides schedules and notifications for each area. ***The Hotel is equipped with a sufficient generator and will generally not be affected.***

CURRENCY

The unit of currency in South Africa is **the South African Rand (ZAR)**, more commonly referred to as **R**. Banknotes are available in denominations of R10, R20, R50, R100, and R200, while coins come in 10c, 20c, 50c, R1, R2, and R5. Major credit and debit cards are widely accepted, and ATMs are easily accessible in urban areas. Foreign exchange services are available at airports, banks, and bureaux de change (currency exchange offices) throughout the country. Most International credit cards (e.g., Visa, MasterCard) are accepted in a large number of hotels, shops and restaurants. Foreign exchange agencies are open during weekdays as well as Saturdays.

NB: Delegates are encouraged to notify their bank of their travel plans to avoid any risk of their credit card being mistakenly blocked.





TIMEZONE

South African Standard Time (SAST) two hours ahead of UTC (UTC/GMT+02:00).

EXPECTED WEATHER

During the mid-April period, Cape Town will be in the autumn season and generally experiences mild, comfortable days with daytime highs around 22 °C (72 °F) and nighttime lows near 12 °C (54 °F). There's a moderate chance of occasional rainfall, with an estimated 8 rainy days for the whole month. Delegates are advised to pack light layers, along with a warm jacket or sweater for cooler evenings plus an umbrella in case of rain.

<https://www.capetown.travel/plan-your-trip/weather-in-cape-town/>

HEALTH AND VACCINATION

Vaccination requirements to enter South Africa depend on your country of residence. Most travellers do not require any compulsory vaccinations. However, a yellow fever vaccination card is required if you have visited or are travelling from regions where yellow fever is endemic. ***Information regarding these countries can be found within the following link:***

<https://www.southafrica.net/gi/en/travel/article/yellow-fever-entry-requirements>

Conference delegates are **responsible for arranging their own health insurance** before travelling to South Africa. Cape Town is considered a low-risk area for malaria; however, delegates who intend to travel elsewhere within South Africa are encouraged to take malaria prophylaxis.

NB: These requirements are subject to change depending on your location, please make sure to check any further details with your local health agencies.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Delegates are advised to arrange appropriate health, travel, and cancellation insurance before departure. ***Please note that the conference organisers cannot accept responsibility or liability for any personal injury, illness or loss of personal belongings during their travel or stay.***

TELECOMMUNICATION

Phone and internet services are easily accessible in Cape Town. Most global mobile phone networks operate in the city, and local SIM cards can be purchased at convenience stores or upon arrival at the airport. Many mobile providers also support eSIMs, which allow the activation of a local data plan without needing a physical SIM card. However, delegates should ensure that their smartphones are compatible with the eSIM technology.





USEFUL CONTACTS

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