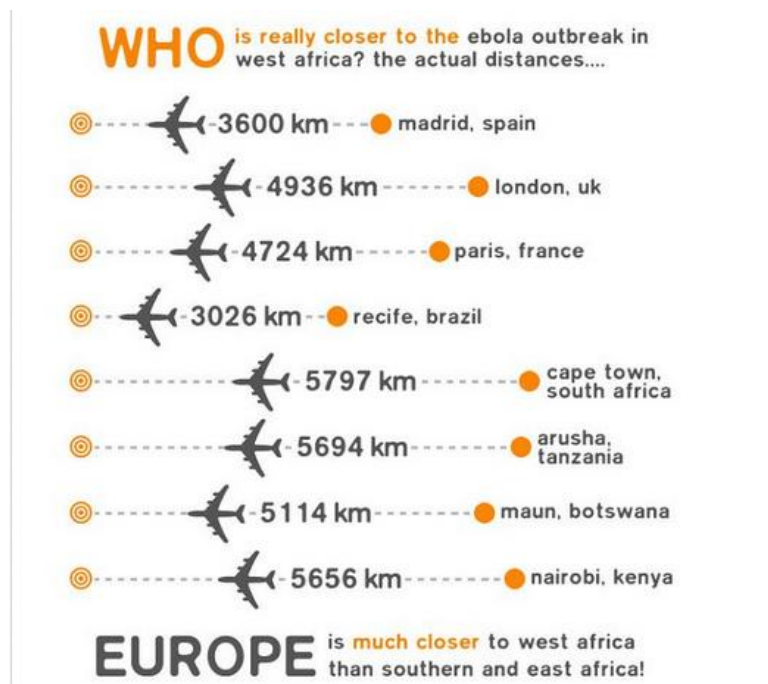




## Worried about Ebola and your South African Holiday?

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa has captured world wide attention, which is understandable considering the dreadful nature of the disease. However there are still so many misconceptions about the disease which is fuelling undue panic and resulting in some tourists unnecessarily cancelling their travel plans to South Africa. To allay these concerns, Taj Cape Town has compiled a list of reasons why Ebola is really a non-issue when considering a trip to South Africa.

Firstly, Africa is not a country; it is the second largest continent and is made up of 53 countries. To put this in perspective, Africa is larger than USA, China, Europe and India combined, and while South Africa might be on the same continent as the Ebola affected countries in West Africa, it lies much further away to the virus epicentre than London, Paris, Madrid and even Recife in Brazil. See infographic below



The office of South African Minister of Health, Aaron Motsoaledi, has assured the public that the government is making every effort to protect South Africa from the spread of Ebola; there is heightened security and increased surveillance at all entry points, including all ports, airports and border crossings, and staff have been thoroughly trained to recognise all possible symptoms. There are a total of 11 hospitals on standby as possible Ebola treatment centres and outbreak response teams have been established in each province to investigate even the smallest potential threats.

It is also important to note that there are at least 20 international borders to cross from the disease affected countries in West Africa, which means that it is highly improbable that the fast acting virus could spread to South Africa via land.

Both the Centre for Disease Control and the World Health Organisation have reiterated that Ebola cannot be contracted through air, water or food (uncooked contaminated bush meat excepted). Most medical professionals and associations have advised that the risk of contracting the disease when visiting a non-affected area is practically zero.

South Africa is completely Ebola free and the government has set up a multitude of safety measures to ensure it stays this way. It would be a travesty to allow unfounded fears and misconceptions to tarnish one of the world's top tourist destinations. So before you cancel your much anticipated trip to Cape Town, please take a moment to consider the facts, and allow Taj Cape Town to reassure you of your safety and to welcome you to one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

### **About Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces**

Established in 1901, Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces is one of Asia's largest and finest group of hotels, comprising 108 hotels in 63 locations across India with an additional 16 international hotels in the Maldives, Malaysia, Australia, UK, USA, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Africa and the Middle East. From world-renowned landmarks to modern business hotels, idyllic beach resorts to authentic Grand Palaces, each Taj hotel offers an unrivalled fusion of warm Indian hospitality, world-class service and modern luxury. For over a century The Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai, the iconic flagship, has set a benchmark for fine living with exquisite refinement, inventiveness and warmth. Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces is part of the Tata Group, India's premier business house.

*For more information please contact:*

Willie Williams

Director of Sales and Marketing - Taj Cape Town

021 819 2000

[Willie.williams@tajhotels.com](mailto:Willie.williams@tajhotels.com)