



Quarterly Newsletter

THE PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL

July - September 2025



Dear Readers,

From adventurous safaris to cinematic skylines, South Africa continues to enchant travellers, creators, and investors. As tourism numbers climb and global interest in local content soars, here's your essential roundup of security updates, travel trends, and media industry highlights:

Security & Travel Advisory Updates

The U.S. Department of State recently updated its travel advisory to Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution, citing concerns around crime, civil unrest, and kidnapping. While this may sound worrying, South African officials have emphasized that the advisory does not discourage tourism—it simply encourages greater awareness in urban centres, especially after dark. Minister of Tourism Patricia de Lille has responded swiftly, outlining enhanced security patrols, trained Tourism Monitors, and joint efforts between public and private stakeholders to maintain a welcoming and safe experience for all.

Tourism, Resilience & Growth

Despite cautionary advisories, South Africa's tourism sector is flourishing. The country welcomed over 111,000 U.S. tourists in the first four months of 2025—outpacing pre-COVID benchmarks. International guests continue to flock to the country's renowned coastlines, heritage sites, and wildlife reserves.

Travelers are encouraged to:

- Travel in groups at night and avoid isolated areas.
- Keep personal belongings secure and visible at all times.
- Use registered tour guides when exploring informal settlements.
- Stay updated on local news and travel alerts.

Spotlight on Media Production in South Africa

South Africa is fast becoming a global media production powerhouse. With its diverse settings, seasoned crews, and favourable exchange rates, the country offers world-class facilities and creative partnerships for film, television, and digital media.

What's making waves:

- Urban Brew Studios in Johannesburg leads the charge with advanced audio-visual facilities and content innovation Urban Brew Studios.
- Carry1st, based in Cape Town, is redefining mobile gaming in Africa, acting as a bridge for global content creators Carry1st on F6S.
- Streaming platforms have invested over R1 billion in South African content. The industry is expected to contribute R7 billion to the national GDP in 2025 Astral Studios.
- Top-tier companies like SPARK Media, Alliance Media, and Provantage Media Group are innovating in outdoor advertising and audience-targeted storytelling Top 10 Media Companies.

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Travel & Security Briefing | Q3 2025

Executive Summary

As the global landscape continues to evolve, companies must proactively manage risks that affect mobility, employee wellbeing, and travel operations. This briefing highlights key developments across security and travel that have direct implications for your business operations.



Security Risk Landscape

- 1. Cybersecurity Threats to Travelers Business** Travellers are increasingly targeted by cybercriminals through phishing attacks, public Wi-Fi vulnerabilities, and cloned booking sites. Secure device management and mobile threat protection are essential safeguards.
- 2. Election-Year Volatility & Geopolitical Shifts** Emerging markets face elevated instability during election cycles (e.g. West and East Africa, South America). Monitor high-risk locations and reassess travel advisories regularly.
- 3. Rise in Hybrid Threats** Increased incidents of kidnapping, fraud, and insider collusion—especially in regions like Southern Africa—require layered security planning, even for low-profile personnel.
- 4. Deepfakes & Social Engineering** There's a surge in impersonation scams leveraging AI-generated content. Staff should be trained to verify identities before sharing sensitive information while abroad.



Corporate Travel Trends

- 1. Flexible Travel = New Liabilities** “Bleisure” trips (blending business and leisure) are now mainstream. This blurs insurance, legal, and duty of care boundaries. Companies must update policies accordingly.
- 2. Sustainability Commitments in Action** Expect stronger client and regulatory pressure to account for CO₂ tracking, green travel options, and vendor certifications.
- 3. Travel Wellbeing as a Priority** Mental health is entering travel policy design. More companies are building in decompression periods, remote options, and ergonomic support.
- 4. ISO 31030 Adoption** ISO 31030 is the new benchmark for travel risk management. Clients expect documented compliance that demonstrates operational due diligence.



Our Services

1. **Risk Management:**

Identify and mitigate potential risks on set, ensuring a safe working environment for cast and crew.

2. **Quality Control:**

Verify that filming equipment, sets, and special effects meet industry standards and client expectations.

3. **Compliance:**

Ensure that all filming activities comply with relevant laws, regulations, and industry guidelines.

Your Benefits

1. **Enhanced Safety:**

Our expertise can help prevent accidents and ensure a safe working environment for cast and crew.

2. **Improved Quality:**

Regular inspections can help identify and address quality control issues, ensuring that final products meet client expectations.

3. **Reduced Liability:**

By verifying compliance with laws and regulations, TPI can help mitigate potential liability risks.



Why Choose Us?

• 1. **Production Expertise:**

Our team has personal experience working on productions, ensuring that we understand local regulations and industry standards.

• 2. **Industry Knowledge:**

We stay up-to-date with the latest industry developments and best practices, ensuring that our services meet the evolving needs of the film and media industry.

• 3. **Personalized Service:**

Our team provides tailored support to meet the unique needs of each production, ensuring that clients receive exceptional service and support.





Unlock Excellence in Film and Media with The Portfolio International

Are you a film or media production company looking for trusted expertise to ensure the success of your projects?

Look no further than The Portfolio International (TPI). Our team of experienced professionals provides comprehensive services to enhance safety, quality, and compliance in the film and media industry.

Join the Ranks of Satisfied Clients!

Don't compromise on safety, quality, or compliance. Partner with The Portfolio International (TPI) to ensure the success of your film or media production. Contact us today to learn more about our services and how we can support your project.

Whether you're a filmmaker scouting locations, a producer seeking co-production deals, or a journalist looking to tap into authentic African narratives—South Africa offers unmatched access, infrastructure, and local talent.

Final Word

South Africa stands tall as a destination of limitless possibility. From safaris to studio shoots, it continues to captivate—and deliver. We look forward to seeing you explore, create, and connect with all this vibrant nation has to offer. Safe travels and successful storytelling,

Thank you for reading.

- Communications Division