

# Travel blogger Meruschka Govender, aka MzansiGirl has passed away

Travel blogger and social media influencer, Meruschka Govender, better known South Africa's MzansiGirl, has passed away. Thirty-eight years strong, Govender passed away on 15 January after a long and private battle with cancer.



[Meruschka Govender](#)

[Govender](#) was a pioneer in the digital travel blogging industry.

[Traveller24](#) described her as "an exceptional force at harnessing the power of the internet and social media, to break down borders, barriers and excite people about getting to know this African continent we call home. She used it to smash archaic stereotypes and urban legends."

Born in Durban, Govender shared her travel experiences and passion for South Africa with her bubbly personality and zest for life, which hugely influenced SA's tourism and travel industry.

Here, Mariette Du Toit-Helmbold, CEO of Destinate says of Govender:

*“ You’ve helped pave the way for female travel in particular on the continent and I along with many others are more committed than ever to take up the baton, building upon your legacy and squeezing everything we possibly can out of this one precious life. We will never forget you...you have left far too deep a mark on our hearts and your footsteps are etched into the soil of this land. ”*

Sisa Ntshona, CEO of SA Tourism also tweeted in remembrance of MzansiGirl:

*“ Just learned of the passing of Meruschka, renowned travel blogger. Her contribution to promoting South Africa as a world class destination & sharing the beauty of our country will forever be remembered. I will miss her smile, charm & invaluable insights. Farewell #MzansiGirl #RIP ”*



“ Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of [@MzansiGirl](#). South African Tourism is saddened by the news of her passing. She worked with us on numerous tourism projects and campaigns. Her enthusiasm and contribution to tourism will be missed. [#RIPMzansiGirl pic.twitter.com/sxVYY3gWdy](#)— GoToSouthAfrica (@GoToSouthAfrica) [January 16, 2019](#) ”

Travel Massive also shared heartfelt condolences for the loss of the blogger:

“ This week, we lost an incredible and inspiring woman in tourism and dear friend to many of us. @Mzansigirl lead our @TravelMassivJHB chapter and was a huge heart in the #TravelMassive Africa community and worldwide. Thank you #Meruschka for all the good you gave the world. ~lan ”

Co “  te for Govender compiled of old photos:





[View this post on Instagram](#)



So sad to see another young vibrant person pass to the other side too early. We had some good fun together on the trip in Mauritius and South Africa. @mzansigirl you will be missed but you'll live on in the hearts of people and shine like a star at night. Grabbed some old videos of back in 2014 and made you a tribute. Thanks to @mattybrownfilms too for the shot on Reunion island.

A post shared by [Caspar Daniël Diederik](#) (@caspardiederik) on Jan 16, 2019 at 10:07am PST  
Rest in peace, MzansiGirl.

**Read more:**

[Mzansi Girl bids South Africa an eternal goodbye](#)  
[South Africans mourn the death of travel blogger #MzansiGirl](#)

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