

BITCOIN FROM ZERO (SA Edition)

A plain-language course for South Africans

By Bitcoin Wilderness — from the wild, off-grid corner of the Garden Route

Chapter 1 — What IS Bitcoin? (the wilderness analogy)

Imagine money you actually OWN. Not a number in a bank's computer that they can freeze, lend out, or watch. Bitcoin is that — digital money that lives on a network nobody controls.

We call it the "wilderness of money" because it's wild and free like the Garden Route. No CEO. No head office. Just code and a global network of ordinary people running it.

Bitcoin was released in 2009 by someone (or a group) called Satoshi Nakamoto.

The key trick: there will only ever be 21 million bitcoin. Your rand can be printed forever by the Reserve Bank. Bitcoin cannot be.

Why this matters for you: when a government prints trillions, your savings lose buying power. Bitcoin's fixed supply is the opposite — it can't be diluted.

Chapter 2 — Why South Africans should care

The rand has lost most of its value over decades. A loaf of bread that cost a few cents now costs rands. That's inflation — and it's silent theft from savers.

Add to that:

- Bank fees on everything
- Loadshedding breaking card machines
- Limits on sending money overseas
- A struggling economy

Bitcoin isn't a get-rich scheme. It's a SAVINGS TECHNOLOGY. Like owning a little piece of hard money that no one can print away.

Chapter 3 — How to BUY Bitcoin in SA (step by step)

Regulated SA exchanges (start here, safe):

- Luno — easiest for beginners, app-based
- Valr — lower fees, more coins
- AltcoinTrader — longest-running SA exchange

Steps:

1. Download the app, sign up with your email
2. FICA — upload ID + proof of address (required by law)
3. Deposit rands via EFT or card
4. Buy your first R100 of Bitcoin
5. That's it — you own a piece of Bitcoin

WARNING: Only use regulated SA exchanges. Never "invest" via a WhatsApp group or a "doubler." That's a scam (see Ch.5).

Chapter 4 — Wallets — where you actually HOLD it

When you buy on Luno, Luno holds it for you. That's fine to start. But the golden rule: not your keys, not your coins.

A wallet is where YOU control it. Beginner-friendly mobile wallets:

- BlueWallet (iOS/Android)
- Muun (simple, safe)

When you set up a wallet, it shows you a seed phrase — 12 words. Write them on PAPER. Never type them into a website. Never photo them. Whoever has those 12 words owns your Bitcoin.

Chapter 5 — Staying SAFE (the predators in the wilderness)

Scams are everywhere. Spot them in 10 seconds:

- "Send 1 BTC, get 2 BTC back" → SCAM
- "Elon/Musk giveaway" → SCAM
- WhatsApp "investment group, guaranteed returns" → SCAM
- Anyone asking for your seed phrase → SCAM

Rule: if it sounds too good to be true, it is. Bitcoin doesn't double.

Real Bitcoin just sits there and can't be frozen by a "support agent."

Chapter 6 — SARS & the law in SA (plain English)

Is Bitcoin legal in SA? YES. The SARB and SARS recognise it.

SARS treats Bitcoin as an ASSET, not money. So:

- If you SELL for more than you paid → you may owe tax on the profit (CGT)
- If you just HOLD → no tax until you sell
- Keep your exchange statements

This is educational info, NOT tax advice. Check the official SARS crypto

guidance.

Chapter 7 — Your first steps this week

1. Buy R100 of Bitcoin on Luno
2. Move it to BlueWallet (self-custody)
3. Write your seed phrase on paper, hide it
4. Learn ONE new thing a week
5. Join the Bitcoin Wilderness community

You're no longer a beginner. You're in the wilderness — and it's free here.

BONUS — Bitcoin Wilderness local guide

We started Bitcoin Wilderness in Wilderness, Garden Route — off-grid, building with our hands, owning our own money. The first Bitcoin Wilderness Gathering brought people together under the trees. The wilderness isn't empty. It's free.

Follow the journey: youtube.com/@BitcoinWilderness

This course is educational. Not financial or tax advice. Do your own research.