



Cape Town, South Africa

CAPE TOWN
& WESTERN CAPE
CONVENTION BUREAU
a division of WESGRO

an inspiring place to meet



discover cape town and the western cape

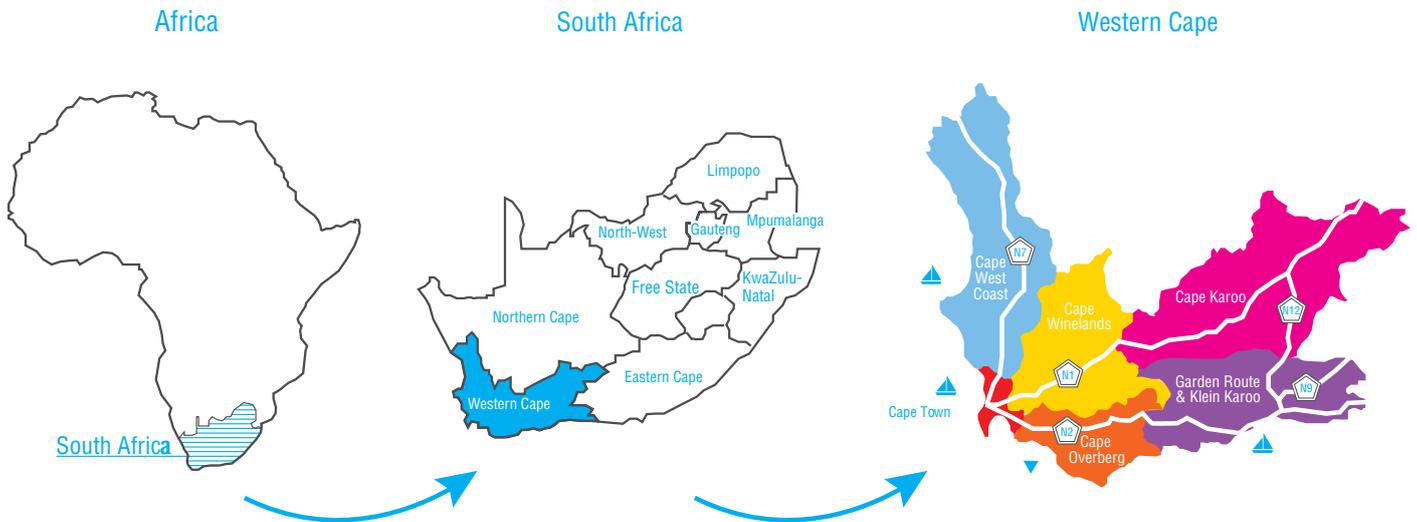


welcome

To visit our inspiring province is to love our province. Cape Town city is a bustling melting pot of cultures, tastes and experiences for young and old. You'll find state of the art shopping malls, open-air markets, a dynamic night life and windows into our rich history. You're going to want to discover more, and a world of natural beauty lies beyond the boundaries of the city in the greater Western Cape regions: the Cape West Coast, the Cape Karoo, the Garden Route & Klein Karoo, the Cape Winelands and the Cape Overberg.

Each area is worth exploring and has its own charm, you'll uncover diverse culinary delights, award-winning wine estates, nature in full bloom, wide open spaces and deserts, azure waters and white sandy beaches, luxury experiences and animal encounters that will make your journey truly unforgettable. But that's not all you'll find here. Drawing strength from diversity, it's the people that make our destination beautiful, and they invite you to share in our colourful heritage.

Welcome to Cape Town and the Western Cape.



population:

6,2million (Stats SA, 2014) people call Cape Town and the Western Cape their home.

size:

We are the fourth largest of nine provinces in South Africa, covering 129,462 square kilometres.

climate:

We have a year-round mild Mediterranean climate, with temperatures averaging between 15°C - 27°C.

airport:

Cape Town International Airport is a 20-minute drive from the city and has been awarded Best African Airport for 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. Our airport is serviced by 20 international airlines.

currency:

South African Rand (ZAR): R1 = 100 cents

Coin denomination: 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, R1, R2 and R5

Banknote denomination: R10, R20, R50, R100 and R200

foreign exchange:

It is important to note that you can only pay in Rands in South Africa. Money can be exchanged at the airport, commercial banks, Rennie's Travel and American Express. These can be found in most shopping centres in the Western Cape. You may also find exchange facilities in some hotels.



Banking hours: 9am – 3:30pm (weekdays) and 8:30am – 11am (Saturdays) and are closed on Sundays.

All major credit cards are accepted at most establishments in the Western Cape.

tipping:

Is at your own discretion, but 10% is the standard.

languages:

Our country has 11 official languages but English, Afrikaans and Xhosa are the most frequently heard in our Province.

Some local chit-chat:

English	Afrikaans	Xhosa
Good morning	Goeiemore	Molo
Hello	Hallo	Bhota
Goodbye	Totsiens	Sala Kakuhle
Thank you	Dankie	Enkosi
How much does this cost?	Hoeveel kos dit?	Yimalini?
Yes	Ja	Ewe
No	Nee	Hayi



V&A Waterfront

duty free shopping

All stores must charge the Value Added Tax (VAT) of 14% that is levied on the purchase of most goods in South Africa. As a foreign visitor you may apply for a refund of the VAT you pay while in the country, provided you apply before you depart. To apply, make sure you get tax invoices for your purchases. Then present these to the VAT Refund Administrator at your point of departure.

business hours

Shops at major centres like the V&A Waterfront and Canal Walk are open until 9pm every day while the shops in other shopping centres close at 7pm. Informal traders and flea markets generally unpack before 9am and start packing up after 4pm, depending on foot traffic and weather conditions. Muslim-owned businesses close at noon on Fridays and re-open at 2pm.



safety tips

Avoid walking in deserted and dark places at night.
Never allow strangers to assist you in any way at ATMs.
At night, park in a secure and well-lit area with street guards.
Keep photocopies and all valuable documents in a safe place.

drinking water

The water in South Africa is safe to drink and cook with when taken from taps in urban areas. Not all tap water in rural areas is safe for consumption, so take precautions if necessary.

emergency numbers:

For all emergency services from your mobile dial 112
All emergencies from landline: 107
South African Police Service: 10111



cape town

Known as the 'Mother City', Cape Town draws people back year after year because of its exquisite natural beauty and cosmopolitan vibe. It's hard not to recognise the iconic Table Mountain, an official 7th Wonder of Nature that looms over the busy city.

Table Mountain was formed approximately 600 million years ago under the sea, the movement of glaciers produced the flat table top before the mountain was thrust upwards by tectonic forces.

In the Southern Suburbs lies Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Cape Town's 101-year old garden, an oasis and national treasure.

Within walking distance from the city centre you'll discover Bo-Kaap, one of Cape Town's oldest residential areas, also known as the Malay Quarters. It's closely associated with the Muslim community. Built in 1804, the Auwal Mosque was the first in Cape Town and is still in use today.

The magnificent coastline surrounding the city includes the historic Cape of Good Hope and Cape Point along the peninsula. Breathe in the sweet scent of Cape Fynbos and salty sea air from the Peninsula's most treacherous and rocky pinnacle. More than 1100 plant species are found here, including our national flower, the Protea. You will without a doubt lose your heart in Cape Town.



Cape Dutch Manor House

cape winelands

Framed by sun-splashed vineyards and rugged mountain peaks, the picture-perfect valleys of the Cape Winelands are famous for their grand old estates, pretty little towns and award-winning restaurants. An easy hour's drive from Cape Town, a Cape Winelands journey perfectly complements a stay in one of the world's favourite cities.

Choose from 600 wine estates for a fabulous wine tasting experience or treat your taste buds at one of the many fine country restaurants situated on wine estates. Most cellars are easily accessible from Cape Town, surrounding small, long established towns like Stellenbosch with the oldest wine route in South Africa or Franschhoek, the undisputed culinary capital and Paarl, the third oldest town in South Africa.

From luxurious Cape Dutch designed manor houses and secluded boutique hotels to warm welcomes in guest houses in each of the small towns, the Cape Winelands has ample quality accommodation options. The region further offers outdoor activities such as mountain biking, horse riding and quad biking, and many wine estates have big picnic-perfect lawns to enjoy a day in the sunshine.



Tsitsikamma National Park, Garden Route

garden route and klein karoo

Whether you're travelling with parents, aunts, uncles, daughters, sons or all on your lonesome, this scenic stretch of the south-eastern coast of South Africa is bustling with unique activities. Why do we call the area between Stilbaai and Tsitsikamma 'The Garden Route'?

It's simple – this is Africa's Garden.

Rich in culture, natural beauty, adventure, fauna and flora, the Garden Route and Klein Karoo has a little bit of everything for everyone. Near Nature's Valley you'll come across the Bloukrans Bridge and you'll quickly notice why it's the world's highest commercial bungee jumping spot! If it's hair-raising adventure you want, you'll find it here.

Your journey would not be complete without exploring the Cango Caves in Oudtshoorn, the only show cave in Africa. It's an underground wonder that makes you feel small in the greater scheme of things.

Dusty roads, padkos (snacks in the car) and local restaurants dotted along the route make this a charming journey of discovery. And the biggest discovery will be the amazing people and their wonderful ways.



Fishing boats, Pateroster

cape west coast

Stretching from Darling in the south to Bitterfontein in the north, the Cape West Coast region comprises 44 small towns along the southwestern coast of South Africa within the Western Cape. This area has all the good looks. It lays claim to a variety of unique experiences, but the annual wild flower display in an around Namaqualand takes top honours. Between mid-August and mid-September the entire region bursts into a kaleidoscope of colour as the flowers carpeting the landscape bloom – the kind of view you wish you could capture adequately.

Life here is all about community and there is a sense that everything works together. The people will take you in, share their stories with you and leave you wishing you had more time to hear about their interesting lives. You'll discover fishermen in the villages who have secrets about the sea, who apply the wisdom that they've gathered from their fathers, who got it from their fathers. And so the ancient and mysterious traditions are passed down and worked into the everyday. Dancing the "Riel" with locals and "braaing askoek" on the fire is an experience you will never forget. With the quaint fishing villages and unspoilt beaches, crayfish and bokkoms, this is the perfect getaway.



cape karoo

The Cape Karoo region is special. Its windmill-peppered landscapes inspire poetry, the scenes resemble movie sets and it is the ultimate escape from the world of urgent phone calls, emails and Facebook. Discover a place where you get to reconnect with nature and yourself.

What happened here? Why are things the way they are? The Cape Karoo has a colourful past, one worth discovering and exploring. Khoi and Xam (Bushman) rock art can be viewed in Nelspoort, Beaufort West - the site of the richest engravings or petroglyphs. For those who love history, take a trip to the Anglo Boer War graves and block houses, follow the skirmishes and routes of the battles which range from north to south of Prince Albert. If you are passionate about the paranormal, take the train to Matjiesfontein and find out who Katie was and why she still walks the halls of this enchanting town, frozen in time.

For a walk on the wild side, visit the Karoo National Park and see the lions. Kgalagadi lion are known for their impressive dark brown manes. And to really get into the fabric of the past, travel back in time along the Smuggler's Route, an old liquor smuggler's trail through the settlements of Vleiland and Rouxpos in Laingsburg.



Whale Crier of Hermanus

cape overberg

A short one-hour drive from Cape Town over the spectacular Sir Lowry's Pass lies the Cape Overberg, magnificent mountain ranges, fynbos (Cape Flora), rolling wheat, canola fields, and coastal towns full of delightful stories and secrets. The coastlines in this region are spectacular, the back-roads wind across the countryside as they do in a country song, and whale watching is as good as it gets.

The adventurous can get their kicks through a variety of activities like shark-cage diving, deep-sea fishing, abseiling and quad-biking. The town of Hermanus (The Whale Capital) is home to the only whale crier in the world! And it's no surprise that people flock here to catch a glimpse of these enormous, beautiful creatures. Wander down the Hermanus Wine Route to find out why its wines boast so many awards.

Memories and tales from the past come alive in the Cape Overberg's rich collection of mission stations, shipwrecks and old architectural treasures – all existing harmoniously alongside new developments in the towns. Check out the Shipwreck Museum in Bredasdorp as well as the Apple Museum in Elgin.



discover shopping

For renowned brands and quality South African haute couture, plan a visit to one of the many shopping experiences across Cape Town and the Western Cape.

Towered by Table Mountain and situated in South Africa's oldest working harbour, the V&A Waterfront is not only the country's most visited tourist attraction but offers activities and experiences designed to suit all tastes.

For shopping like you've never known before, discover 450 retail outlets, 80 restaurants, three museums as well as the famous Two Oceans Aquarium. Departing from the harbor daily, enjoy a number of boat cruises or discover the city via the air by booking one of the helicopter chartered tours. A vibrant addition to the V&A Waterfront is the Watershed, housing 150 crafters selling their unique hand-made products. The Jubilee Exhibition Hall often plays host to world-famous exhibitions, live entertainment and workshops.

Wanting a panoramic view of Cape Town? Take a 360-degree trip on the Cape Wheel situated next to the Amphitheatre, which hosts a number of live events and entertainment shows throughout the year. Trading hours: 9am to 9pm, Monday – Sunday.



St Georges Mall

For other shopping experiences, visit St George's Mall in the city centre. It's the perfect place to shop, with a wide selection of informal traders' stalls, art galleries and African curio shops. Also known as Cape Town's Jewellery Route, there are a number of jewellers based in St George's Mall, which stretches from Thibault Square near the station, right up to St George's Cathedral.

Canal Walk, just outside the Cape Town city centre, is one of the biggest shopping malls in the Southern Hemisphere, offering shoppers a choice between hundreds of stores offering everything from designer imports to hand-crafted South African curios. Trading hours: 9am to 9pm, Monday – Sunday.

Tyger Valley Shopping Centre, a short drive out of the city centre, offers a waterfront, cinemas, restaurants and ±275 shops, boutiques and outlets. Trading hours: 9am to 7pm, Monday – Saturday and 9am – 5pm, on Sundays.

With regional malls dotted throughout the Western Cape, from Stellenbosch to Knysna to Plettenberg Bay, finding that perfect gift poses no problem at all.



Cape fur seal

discover unique activities

Cape Town and the Western Cape has brilliant weather, varied terrain and plenty on offer for every adventurer, big or small. From abseiling to scuba diving, angling to kloofing, stand-up paddle boarding to crocodile cage diving, there is not a single adrenalin rush or extreme activity we don't cater for.

shark cage diving

Shark cage diving takes adventurous to a whole new level. We have the best sites in the world to view Great White sharks in their natural habitat throughout the year. Shark cage diving operators can practically guarantee you shark encounters by heading for the populated waters of Hout Bay, Gansbaai, Dyer Island, KleinBaai, Seal Island, Mossel Bay and Simon's Town. You needn't be a qualified diver to try out shark cage diving as no diving is required. Cages are simply lowered into the waters alongside the viewing boat.

seal snorkeling

Swim and interact with curious Cape Fur Seals, watch them dart around gracefully and playfully in the water below you, and take home the experience of a lifetime. No experience required. Swimmers are thoroughly briefed on what to do and enter the water under the supervision of an experienced PADI dive-master.



bungy jumping

Looking for the ultimate thrill? Jump off the world's highest commercial bungee bridge, the Bloukrans Bridge, near the coastal town of Plettenberg Bay, 216 meters above the ground! Alternatively, try the Gouritz River Bridge, a 65m high jump and bridge swing at the original African Bungee Site of the World, established in 1989.

cape canopy tours

Located in the Elgin Valley, an hour's drive from Cape Town, these tours take you deep into the Cape Fynbos of a World Heritage Site! It's been recently listed as one of Lonely Planet's Top New Tourist Experiences for 2015. It's also the only African attraction to make the list and is safe and fun for the whole family.

helicopter flights

A range of flights around the Peninsula offer the opportunity to view some of the most beautiful locations like, Camps Bay, Chapman's Peak, Long Beach and Cape Point. For a unique day excursion, plan a trip to the Cape Winelands and picnic in a secluded location or fly to your shark cage diving experience.

whale watching

The coming of the whales to the Western Cape's southern coastline, also known as the Cape Whale Coast, between June and November, sees the return of the Southern Right whale and the less common Bryde's and Humpback whales. These giants migrate thousands of miles from the Antarctic to our sheltered bays seeking refuge to mate and calve.



discover cape town's big 7

The Cape Town Big 7 consists of Cape Point, Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, Groot Constantia, Robben Island, Table Mountain, V&A Waterfront and City Walk. These 7 attractions are definitely a must see when visiting the province as they each offer their own unique beauty.

table mountain cableway

Table Mountain needs no introduction. This iconic landmark towers over Cape Town and can be seen from almost anywhere. One of the Natural 7 Wonders of the World, this icon can be explored by the state of the art aerial cableway.

robben island

Robben Island forms part of the UNESCO World Heritage sites of the world. There are few places in South Africa that can bear the weight and sheer historical importance of Robben Island. Discover a guided tour by a former inmate on the island, which will provide you with a personalised experience through the prison cells and courtyard where many integral political figures such as Nelson Mandela aided in shaping South Africa.

cape point

There are not many things that can compare to the beauty at Cape Point situated at the South Western tip of Africa. Take a picture at the Cape of Good Hope sign for the perfect memories.



Groot Constantia

kirstenbosch national botanical gardens

Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens was recently voted Garden of the Year at the 2015 International Garden Tourism Awards. Located at the foot of the iconic Table Mountain, it has the perfect backdrop. The gardens are just over a hundred years old. It is the first garden of its kind to be devoted entirely to a single country's indigenous fauna. Visit the new Treetop Canopy Walkway, the 'boomslang', which gives you a bird's eye view of the gardens and the surrounding beauty.

groot constantia

Groot Constantia is South Africa's oldest wine producing estate. You can dine at superb restaurants while sipping on some of the finest wines. The beautiful estate with Cape Dutch architecture offers a wine cellar tour and superb wine tasting opportunities.

the v&a waterfront

The V&A Waterfront is a world-recognised shopping hotspot in the Western Cape. With over 450 retail outlets selling everything from fashion, homeware and curios, to jewellery, leather goods and audiovisual equipment, it's South Africa's most popular shopping destination.

cape city walk

Discover the city of Cape Town on foot by taking a City Walk. There are daily walking tours departing in front of the Taj Hotel. City Walk Saturdays happen every third Saturday of the month. Be entertained by buskers, dancers, drummers, street art, gamers and so much more along this route.



discover a food and wine journey through the western cape

Eat in Cape Town, known for its eateries, bustling trendy markets, Cape Malay cuisine and home-brewed coffee amongst unparalleled natural beauty. There's something for all tastes and budgets; from 5-star gourmet restaurants to street food and trendy food trucks.

Have lunch with the locals in the Cape West Coast where you'll get to delight in the freshest seafood straight off the boats and listen to the stories of passionate people. If it's artisan goods you're after, savour the tastes of the slow food experience in the Garden Route & Klein Karoo...every last morsel cooked with care, aged to perfection.

All good things take time. And our craft beers are popular for their taste, trendy designs and chilled lifestyle vibes. Sample a craft brew with a view in the Cape Overberg, combine cycling and wine tasting or visit a microbrewery.

As the sun goes down, raise your glass of the finest, award-winning wine the Cape Winelands has to offer. The area is famous for its grand old estates, boutique hotels, exquisite vineyards and breathtaking scenic beauty.

Lose your heart to succulent Cape Karoo lamb under the starry night's sky. You'll be far from the city lights, far from the urban hustle and bustle and as close as you can get to peace and tranquility.



discover nightlife and entertainment

Entertainment and nightlife in Cape Town and the Western Cape is something special. Enjoy an endless supply of top rated bars, clubs, live music venues and international DJ's popping by for impromptu sessions. Restaurants range from top class international venues, to warm more intimate settings and magical sundowners on a picnic blanket along the Atlantic Seaboard.

In summer, the Camps Bay strip is the ultimate venue for cocktails while Green Point, Sea Point and Bantry Bay also have a large share of watering holes, ranging from ultra-chic to quirky.

Long Street in the city centre offers an eclectic mix of entertainment and is within walking distance of the many backpackers lodges found in the area.

Alternatively, head to Grand West Casino for a glitzy night of gambling, wining and dining. The casino offers a host of restaurants and bars as well as cinemas and other entertainment.



Table Bay Hotel

discover accommodation

From luxury grand old estates to unique stayovers in tents, tree-tops, on working farms and surrounded by some of the most exceptional natural beauty in the world, we have something to suit all group types, budgets and styles.

Value for money, discreet first-class service and style conspire to make Cape Town and the Western Cape an inspiring choice to plan a memorable stay for any business or leisure visitor alike. With over 20 000 bedrooms, the greatest density of Cape Town hotels, boutique hotels, bed and breakfasts, guest houses, self-catering apartments and holiday villas are situated within the city bowl area and South Atlantic Seaboard belt. They are all within a 10-minute drive from the Cape Town city centre, Cape Town International Convention Centre or the V&A Waterfront.

Selection of luxurious, 5-star hotels to very good quality 4 and 3-star options available within the city bowl:

5-Star – 2800 rooms

4-Star – 4950 rooms

3-Star – 2500 rooms

The outlining regions offer a variety of accommodation options in some of the most unique settings in the province.

Your hosts will be exceptional and our offerings are packed with panache. With an emphasis on elegance and sophisticated old-world charm to modern contemporary style, our accommodation offerings will create the perfect ambience for a deserving guest to unwind and refresh themselves for a unique itinerary ahead.

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Site



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