



WELCOME

Welcome to Cape Town and the Western Cape

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 (Weskus), 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 its diversity it's the people that make our destination beautiful, and they invite you to share in our colourful heritage.

LANGUAGES

South Africa 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 Kakuhe
Thank you	Dankie	Enkosi
How much does this cost?	Hoeveel kos dit?	Yimalini?
Yes	Ja	Ewe
No	Nee	Hayi

DUTY FREE SHOPPING

All stores must charge the Value Added Tax (VAT) of 15% 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.

Ensure that you receive your tax receipts for all purchases made, to claim your VAT refund, present all your tax receipts to the VAT administrator at your point of departure.

POPULATION:

6,166,324 (Stats SA) people call Cape Town and the Western Cape their home.

CLIMATE:

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

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 are: 9am – 3.30pm (weekdays)

and 8.30am – 11am (Saturdays) and are closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

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

BUSINESS HOURS

Shops at the major malls such as the V&A Waterfront and Canal Walk are open until 9pm everyday, while the shops in shopping centres close at 7pm. Informal traders and flea markets generally trade from 9pm - 4pm. Muslim owned businesses are closed between 12pm and 2pm on Fridays.

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Cape Town and the Western Cape is open for leisure and business travel. For the latest information on travel restrictions, visa requirements and the latest Covid-19 health and safety information visit <https://safetravels.capetown>

DRINKING WATER

Drinking 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