

## TO / FROM THE AIRPORT

### Way 2 Go Shuttle Service

011-27/21-934-4651, [way2go.co.za](http://way2go.co.za)

Door-to-door shuttle van to/from Cape Town International Airport that runs 24 hours. Drivers will meet you with a sign-board in the international terminal near the rental-car kiosk if you reserve ahead, or in the domestic terminal at the Way 2 Go kiosk. Online prebooking advised. Rates for a one-way trip from airport to your hotel anywhere in the city center or back to the airport are \$18 for one person, \$20 for two.

## GETTING AROUND

### TAXIS

#### Minibus Taxis

White minibus taxis are a cheap way to travel major city roads, but they're not for the squeamish. The taxis can be cramped, noisy, and sometimes shabby, but they're fast—sometimes hair-raisingly so. They don't make official stops; board anywhere you can flag one down, and shout when you want to get off. Purchase tickets onboard. **Note:** These are not a safe option outside the city center and Atlantic Seaboard. About 40¢ to points within the city center.

#### Marine Taxis

011-27/21-434-0434

Most reliable 24-hour taxi service in Cape Town, with a fleet of new cars. Call for pickup. Cash only. Fares start at 33¢, plus \$1.80 per kilometer for up to seven in a minivan, four in a sedan.

### BUS

#### Hop On—Hop Off Sightseeing Cape Town Bus

011-27/21-511-1784, [hyltonross.co.za](http://hyltonross.co.za)

Open-air double-decker buses with a guide's commentary that make routine stops at major attractions only, like Table Mountain cableway, the V&A Waterfront, and the Cape Town Tourism Office. Hop on and off wherever you like. **Note:** Buses make stops at each sight every half hour in summer, about every hour in winter. Pay as you board; you can even pay with a credit card on the bus. Passes valid for one day. \$15 for City and Mini Peninsula Tours, \$26 for a combo pass.

### CAR

**Avis**, 011-27/21-934-0330, [avis.co.za](http://avis.co.za)

**Tempest Car Hire**, 011-27/11-396-1080, [tempestcarhire.co.za](http://tempestcarhire.co.za)

With so much to see beyond the city limits, it's helpful to have your own wheels. Try Avis for best all-around selection and service, or Tempest for low-priced, no-frills cars. Expect to pay about \$39/day, including insurance, for a manual vehicle without A/C or radio, and from \$64/day for an automatic. **Note:** People drive on the left side of the road. South African roads are well-marked and well-maintained, but be aware of speeders.

## WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND TOWN

**At newsstands** *Cape Times*, 70¢; *Cape Argus*, 60¢, [tonight.co.za](http://tonight.co.za); *Cape Etc.* magazine, \$2.50

**Tune in** *Cape Talk*, 567 mw (talk radio with entertainment updates)

## TOURS

### Footsteps to Freedom City Walk

011-27/21-465-2032, [footstepstofreedom.co.za](http://footstepstofreedom.co.za)

The complete story of Cape Town and its people. Three-hour guided walk incorporates many historic sites, like the Grand Parade, Company's Garden, and St. George's Cathedral, and covers early trading, slavery, apartheid, freedom, and urban regeneration. Departs from the Visitor Information Centre at the corner of Castle St. and Burg St. at 10:30 A.M. Mon.–Sat. \$16, includes visit to District Six Museum.

### Cape Care Route

011-27/21-448-3117, [tourcapers.co.za](http://tourcapers.co.za)

Community tours by minivan that focus on uplifting social, economic, and environmental programs. Participants can speak directly with people working on projects. Run by Faizal Gangat, who won Best S.A. Tour Guide Award in 2004–2005 from the Tourist Guide Registration Office. Township walking tours also available. Reservations essential. \$75 per person for a full-day tour.

### Daytrippers

011-27/21-511-4766, [daytrippers.co.za](http://daytrippers.co.za)

A 14-year-old adventure-tour company with a stellar safety record. Day tours include hiking, biking, and picnicking on Cape Point and Peninsula, cycling through the Winelands, and even kloofing down Suicide Gorge. Kloofing is an exhilarating and uniquely South African sport where you hike along a gorge and then jump into pools from varying heights. \$57–\$90, includes equipment and lunch.

## NUMBERS TO KNOW

**Emergency Services** 107 or 112 from cell phone

**Mountain Rescue Services** 011-27/21-948-9900

**Telephone Directory Assistance** 1023

**Tourism Info** 011-27/21-462-4260

**Computicket** Ticket booking service for most events,

011-27/83-915-8000, [computicket.com](http://computicket.com)

**Mr. Delivery** Wide range of food deliveries from local restaurants; Cape Town: 011-27/21-423-4177, the suburban coastal neighborhood of Sea Point: 011-27/21-439-9916, [mrdelivery.com](http://mrdelivery.com)

For local calls, drop the international access number (011), the country code (27) and the city code (21). All local numbers have seven digits. For cell numbers (those beginning with prefixes 74-, 82-, 83-, or 84-), add a 0 before the prefix.

# BudgetTravel Cape Town / Sleep

## SNAP GUIDE

Accommodations don't come cheap in Cape Town. The closer to the beach, the more you pay. Best bets are City Bowl guesthouses, which are cute, pleasant, and well-priced. Rates exclude 14% VAT.

### **CITY** An African Villa

19 Carstens St., Tamboerskloof, 011-27/21-423-2162, [capetowncity.co.za/villa](http://capetowncity.co.za/villa)

Wall-mounted Zulu hats and giant proteas adorn the 12-room Afro-Zen guesthouse with colorful, comfortable rooms. There's a splash pool, and A/C in all rooms. From \$100.

### **CITY** De Tafelberg Guesthouse

68 Molteno Rd., Oranjezicht, 011-27/21-424-9159, [detafelberg.com](http://detafelberg.com)

A well-appointed guesthouse suspended above the city on the upper slopes of Table Mountain. Earthy African tones, platform beds, and stone basins inside; pristine pool and Jacuzzi outside. Breakfast is served on the outdoor deck. Amazing views. From \$114.

### **CITY** Dunkley House

3b Gordon St., Gardens, 011-27/21-462-7650, [dunkleyhouse.com](http://dunkleyhouse.com)

A small guesthouse that's a hidden haven in a gentrified neighborhood of narrow one-way streets and Victorian homes. The decor is classic with art deco details. Homemade cookies and fresh fruit are delivered to rooms daily. There's a big pool, too. From \$114, includes full breakfast and taxes.

### **CITY** Metropole Hotel

38 Long St., 011-27/21-424-7247, [metropolehotel.co.za](http://metropolehotel.co.za)

Cape Town's first inner-city boutique hotel, and its sleekest. Chic lighting and minimalist luxury reign in what was once a dumpy hotel. The handsome rooms feature neutral tones and dark furniture. The white-on-white Veranda restaurant serves modern South African dishes like seared shrimp with watermelon and chili, and the red-hot M-Bar pours stiff drinks. Both attract a well-heeled crowd. From \$162 in low season, \$211 in high season.

### **CITY** Table Mountain Lodge

10A Tamboerskloof Rd., Tamboerskloof, 011-27/21-423-0042, [tablemountainlodge.co.za](http://tablemountainlodge.co.za)

Once a farmhouse, the blue-and-white lodge built in 1885 has antique furniture and modern bathrooms. The kitschy Scottish bar has tartan-covered stools. Its plunge pool and lovely veranda are surrounded by a slightly overgrown Cape garden with yellow hibiscus and creeping vines. A quick stroll to many restaurants. From \$126.

### **CITY** The Village Lodge

49 Napier St., De Waterkant, 011-27/21-421-1106, [thevillagelodge.com](http://thevillagelodge.com)

High-style digs in the superfashionable De Waterkant area. The sexy chocolate-walled rooms come with slate showers, and there's a private pool/bar and sundeck on the roof. The Soho Restaurant downstairs serves breakfast, sandwiches, and salads for lunch, and Thai food for dinner. Want to hit the neighborhood clubs? Check out Opium (6 Dixon St., 011-27/21-438-8315), a couple of blocks away. From \$106 in low season, \$196 in high season.

### **BEACH** La Splendida

121 Beach Rd., Mouille Pt., 011-27/21-439-5119, [lasplendida.co.za](http://lasplendida.co.za)

Comfortable new all-suite hotel with a fantastic seaside location across from the Promenade, close to the V&A Waterfront and beaches. Rooms are corporate African in style with Big Five animal-print upholstery on the chairs and some sofas. Most rooms have sea or mountain views. From \$107.

“The fairest cape in the circumference of the Earth.”

—Sir Francis Drake

### **BEACH** Rosedene Lodge

3 Rosedene Rd., Sea Pt., 011-27/21-439-7037, [rosedenelodge.com](http://rosedenelodge.com)

A small guesthouse on a quiet lane behind Sea Point's busy main road, just a couple of blocks from the water. It oozes good taste with its minimalist decor, crisp linens, artwork, and personal service. Details such as mosaic-tiled or slate bathrooms, outside reading lights on private terraces, and movie night twice a month, with a big screen in the pool area, make it a standout. The staff can even arrange car rentals at good rates. From \$92 in low season, \$180 in high season.

### **WINELANDS** Résidence Klein Oliphants Hoek

14 Academie St., Franschoek, 011-27/21-876-2566, [kleinoliphantshoek.co.za](http://kleinoliphantshoek.co.za)

Once called Oliphants Hoek for the elephants that freely roamed the valley. The guesthouse is in an 1888 missionary station on a quiet back street, and looks out over mountains and a landscaped garden with flowers and herbs. Depending on how full the guesthouse is, the chef/owners prepare extraordinary five-course gourmet meals (\$48) on a wood-burning stove, and serve such dishes as scallops with cucumber and yogurt. The restaurant is open to the public, but guests get first preference for dinner reservations. From \$84 in low season, \$98 in high season, includes breakfast.

### **\$ SPLURGE** Winchester Mansions Hotel

221 Beach Rd., Sea Pt., 011-27/21-434-2351, [winchester.co.za](http://winchester.co.za)

Gracious colonial-style hotel built in 1922 across from Sea Point Promenade. Palm trees, bougainvillea, and a tranquil, shady colonnaded courtyard blend with warm South African hospitality. There are numerous affordable treatments at the on-site Ginkgo Health and Wellness Spa, such as the Ginkgo De-Stress Express (\$77). Quote these special rates offered to BudgetTravelOnline: Colonial-style doubles from \$126 in low season, \$270 in high season. Modern doubles from \$143 in low season, \$302 in high season. Some suites for under \$240.

# Budget Travel Cape Town / City

## SNAP GUIDE

Cape Town's urban area is small, with a compact Central Business District (CBD). Charming residential neighborhoods, like Gardens and Oranjezicht, creep up toward Table Mountain.

### SEE Gold of Africa Museum

96 Strand St., 011-27/21-405-1540, [goldofafrica.com](http://goldofafrica.com)

Dynamically curated exhibits that celebrate the history and artistry of African gold. Hundreds of gleaming artifacts from ancient African civilizations are paired with interesting narratives. There's also a lovely tea garden. Closed Sun. \$3.30

### EAT Ginja

121 Castle St., 011-27/21-426-2368, [diningout.co.za](http://diningout.co.za)

(search: ginja)

Grain house turned restaurant with a strong foodie following. Dishes have original flavor combos, like prawns with chili and coriander foam. Outstanding spicy concoctions include crocodile curry with grilled langoustines. Dinner only. Closed Sun.

### EAT Haiku

33 Church St., 011-27/21-424-7000

Busy, dimly lit Asian restaurant known for its dim sum, wok-fried veggies, and sushi. There's even a *robata* (Japanese open-flame grill), where you can cook your choice of marinated meats. Closed Sun.

### EAT Melissa's

94 Kloof St., 011-27/21-424-5540, [melissas.co.za](http://melissas.co.za)

Urban deli near the top of steep Kloof St. It sells *pain au chocolat* and other pastries, a weigh-before-you-pay salad buffet, and mega sandwiches. Order the roast beef with red onion marmalade served on hearty *ciabatta* bread. Pick up picnic stuff for mountain hikes or sundowners on the beach. Open until 8 P.M. daily.

### EAT Mt. Nelson Hotel Afternoon Tea Buffet

76 Orange St., 011-27/21-483-1737, [mountnelson.co.za](http://mountnelson.co.za)

No place captures colonialism in Cape Town better than the grand old hotel with pink exterior. Afternoon tea in the lounge or on the terrace is a must. It has a lavish spread of desserts, scones, and petite crustless finger sandwiches. It's a little touristy but worth doing for the ultimate colonial Cape experience. Served 2:30 P.M.–5:30 P.M. daily. \$20 per person.

### DRINK Caveau Wine Bar & Deli

50 Bree St., 011-27/21-422-1367, [caveau.co.za](http://caveau.co.za)

Cozy wine bar in the old Heritage Square cellar with an extensive wine list and many South African wines by the glass. Its unconventional descriptions of wines—by mood rather than varietal—are user-friendly. The deli can whip up an accompanying plate of local cheeses and cured meats. Closed Sun.

### DRINK Relish

70 New Church St., 011-27/21-422-3584, [relish.co.za](http://relish.co.za)

Enjoy the best view of looming Table Mountain over cocktails such as Relish Bull, made with Absolut Citron, pineapple and cranberry juices, and Red Bull. The city's trendiest like to gather at the triple-story glass-walled bar and restaurant for post-work unwinding. There's a gastropub menu, too.

### SHOP African Music Store

134 Long St., 011-27/21-426-0857

No dreads required at the shrine to African music, which houses an impressive collection of mostly South African CDs. The store sells it all, from kwaito, the township hip-hop mix that has South African youth on its feet, to the Soweto String Quartet.

### SHOP Atlas Trading

94 Wale St., 011-27/21-423-4361

An aromatic spice shop in Bo-Kaap, the city's old Malay quarter, that's the same as it ever was—full of local gossip, as well as masalas, curry powders, and other ingredients for the community's curry pots. Like most other Muslim-run shops, it's closed on Fridays noon to 2 P.M.

### SHOP Imagenius

117 Long St., 011-27/21-423-7870, [imagenius.co.za](http://imagenius.co.za)

Inviting boutique crammed with contemporary handcrafted goods in a riot of colors and off-the-wall designs. You'll find a range of iridescent-hued springbok-hide cushions, striking jewelry, bath goodies, and more.

### PLAY Artscape Theatre

D.F. Malan St., 011-27/21-410-9800, [artscape.co.za](http://artscape.co.za)

Original South African plays, such as dramatic works by playwright Athol Fugard, and the earthy stand-up comedy of Cape Town's own Kurt Schoonraad, as well as familiar productions like *La Bohème* with an African twist. Tickets from \$8.

### \$ SPLURGE Africa Nova

Cape Quarter Shopping Centre, 72 Waterkant St., Green Point, 011-27/21-425-5123

High-end Afro-gallery whose craftsmanship is unrivaled in the Cape Quarter. Finds include contemporary ceramics by South African artists such as Helen Vaughan and handmade potato-printed fabrics by Kudhinda. The central courtyard outside is a Capetonian favorite.

### ROADWORTHY ADVICE

- South Africans drive on the left side of the road.
- Local drivers vigilantly adhere to the keep-left rule. Only drive in the right-hand lane if you are passing a car.
- South Africans don't honk (or hoot, as they call it). Rapid flashing of emergency lights at your car can be either a sign of irritation or a gesture of thanks. If a car flashes lights behind you, it wants to overtake you, and you should move left. A repeat of flashing after it passes you means "thank you."
- Leave a big gap between your car and any minitaxis; the drivers believe they control the roadways.
- Gasoline, called petrol, is full-service everywhere. Always the tip the attendant at least a rand or two.
- Parking on central Cape Town streets is controlled by licensed parking monitors who must show their ID. Rates are 25¢ for 30 minutes, 50¢ for an hour.
- Everyone jaywalks in Cape Town, so beware of pedestrians.

# Budget Travel Cape Town / Beaches

## SNAP GUIDE

Beaches run the length of the Peninsula on both sides. Atlantic beaches are tonier with colder water, False Bay beaches more family-oriented and warmer, and many in between are still wild and often deserted.

### SEE The Boulders

M4 south of Simon's Town, 011-27/21-786-2329, [tmnp.co.za](http://tmnp.co.za)  
About 4,000, once nearly extinct, African penguins live in this reserve of massive boulders and sheltered beaches. Elevated walkways allow you to see the birds, up close. You can also swim (with penguins) in the warmish calm waters. If the penguins don't tempt you to visit, the panoramic views of False Bay might. Admission \$2.50. Drive time: 60 min.

### EAT Biggsy's Coach & Wine Bar

Cork Bay, 011-27/21-788-7760

A restaurant train that travels two and a half hours from the city to Simon's Town, hugging the False Bay coast along the way. A fun outing any time of day, it's best in the morning, when it serves full English breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, sautéed tomato, and hearty toast. Reservations a must. Round-trip Cape Town–Simon's Town \$4. Breakfast Tues.–Fri. \$6, champagne breakfast Sat.–Sun. \$8. Lunch and late afternoon trains also available.

### EAT Olympia Café & Deli

134 Main Rd., Kalk Bay, 011-27/21-788-6396

Offbeat, artsy café with unbeatable omelets and sandwiches on potato *focaccia* that burst with fresh fillings like goat cheese and arugula. Its cinnamon twists are also excellent. Drive time: 30 min.

### \$ SPLURGE Azure Restaurant

The Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa, Victoria Rd., Camps Bay, 011-27/21-437-9000, [12apostleshotel.com](http://12apostleshotel.com)

Cape Town's best-positioned hotel is sandwiched between the Twelve Apostles Mountain Range and the pounding surf of the Atlantic just outside Camps Bay. Its innovative chef uses a rosemary-like indigenous herb called fynbos to create truly South African dishes such as fynbos springbok loin. Drive time: 15 min.

### DRINK Café Caprice

37 Victoria Rd., Camps Bay, 011-27/21-438-8315

Cape Town's young and bronzed compare tan lines and exchange text messages over icy mojitos on an overflowing patio facing Camps Bay Promenade on the Atlantic coastline. It also serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Drive time: 10 min.

### SHOP Main Road, Kalk Bay

Funky shops, galleries, and cafés line the main artery of Kalk Bay, a bohemian beach town. You can pick up anything from odd culinary utensils to vintage Cape mementos at the antique and secondhand shops. Try Clementina Ceramics (20 Main Rd., 011-27/21-788-8718, [clementina.co.za](http://clementina.co.za), closed Mon.) for handmade treasures. Drive time: 30 min., or take the train from Cape Town Central Station.

### PLAY Clifton and Camps Bay Beaches

Cape Town's Atlantic coastline is also its platinum strip. Bungalows once given to returning servicemen have been replaced with millionaire's apartments. Clifton's four beaches attract a more upmarket and single crowd; Camps Bay is more for families and commoners. Both beaches are beautiful, but the water's almost always cold. Drive time: 15 min.

### PLAY Gary's Surf School

Surfer's Corner, Muizenberg, 011-27/21-788-9839, [garysurf.com](http://garysurf.com)

Most locals ride their first waves at the beach, known for its easy swells. For lessons or equipment rental, Gary's the man. He and five other instructors give two-hour lessons. After, they let you keep your board and wet suit for the rest of the day. Reservations recommended. \$62, includes equipment rental. Drive time: 30 min.

### PLAY Imhoff Equestrian Center

Imhoff Farm, M65, Kommetjie, 011-27/82-774-1191, [horseriding.co.za](http://horseriding.co.za)

Good for picture-perfect guided horse rides across endless Noordhoek Beach, between Kommetjie and Noordhoek. Rides last two hours. \$28 for 9 A.M. and noon rides; \$36 for 4 P.M. Sunset Ride in winter, 5 P.M. in summer. Drive time: 30 min.

### PLAY Llandudno Beach

South of Camps Bay, at the base of a steep, noncommercial enclave of upmarket homes, is a smaller beach with a long Welsh name. Utterly romantic, with bleached white sands that abut rocky outcrops, and ideal for body boarding and summer sundowners. Drive time: 30 min.

### BEATING THE SOUTH AFRICAN TAXMAN

Save your receipts! In S.A., the 14% Value-Added Tax (VAT) is added to nearly all goods and services, and is almost always included in advertised prices. Visitors can reclaim VAT paid on goods only (minus an administration fee of 1.5%), provided total value is 250 Rand (\$41) or more. This excludes meals, hotels, and services. If you wish to claim, you must request a tax invoice whenever you purchase goods. Upon departure, submit to an inspection of all goods you are claiming at the VAT refund office at Cape Town International Airport before you check your bags, unless you plan to repack the goods in your carry-on bag. Allow a minimum of 30 minutes extra for this process. If approved, the inspector will give you a rand check, which you can cash in the desired currency at an airport banking facility. Depending on how many souvenirs you're lugging back, it can be worthwhile. Tip: Don't bother filing your claim at the tax refund office at the V&A Waterfront. You're still required to submit to an inspection at the airport. In addition to VAT, all hotels charge a nonrefundable 1% tourism levy. For more info and downloadable forms, go to [taxrefunds.co.za](http://taxrefunds.co.za).

# Budget Travel Cape Town / Victoria & Alfred Waterfront

## SNAP GUIDE

A commercial yet still working waterfront with attractions, shops, and restaurants galore. It's not just for tourists; locals come for movies and the boutiques, cafés, and bars.

### SEE Robben Island Museum

Nelson Mandela Gateway, 011-27/21-413-4200, [robben-island.org.za](http://robben-island.org.za)

Dramatic and uplifting tour of the maximum-security prison on nearby Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for 18 years. Guides are ex-political prisoners who share their harrowing memories. The museum chronicles the anti-apartheid struggle. \$25, includes round-trip ferry ride.

“I come from a beautiful land, richly endowed by God with wonderful natural resources...with radiant sunshine, gold sunshine.”

—*Bishop Desmond Tutu*

### EAT Quay Four

Quay 4, V&A Waterfront, 011-27/21-419-2008, [quay4.co.za](http://quay4.co.za)  
Casual, perpetually busy place for great fish and chips and a brew on the pier. Grab an outdoor seat next to the water and watch the boats and frolicking seals in the harbor.

### EAT Simply Asia & Noodle Bar

Food Court, Victoria Wharf, 011-27/21-425-5555, [simplyasia.co.za](http://simplyasia.co.za)

For healthy fast food that's full of Asian flavor and spice, sample the take-out noodles from this Thai/Chinese stir-fry joint. Be sure to ditch the food court and eat outside, where you can listen to frequent concerts at the nearby amphitheater.

### DRINK Alba Lounge

Pierhead, 011-27/21-425-3385, [albalounge.co.za](http://albalounge.co.za)

One of the V&A Waterfront's few watering holes that attract mostly locals, Alba has comfy couches and good drinks, like the Harbour Sunset, made with tequila, peach schnapps, mango juice, and grenadine.

### DRINK Bascule Whisky Bar and Wine Cellar

Cape Grace Hotel, West Quay, 011-27/21-410-7100, [capegrace.com](http://capegrace.com)

Stocks more than 460 types of whiskey, and holds regular tastings and live jazz concerts every Wednesday, 7 P.M.–9 P.M. There are even private lockers where members can store their liquid gold. Prices go up with age: from \$2.30 for basic J&B to \$2,485 for 50-year-old Glenfiddich.

### DRINK Waterfront Boat Company Sunset Cruise

Quay 5, 011-27/21-418-5806, [waterfrontboats.co.za](http://waterfrontboats.co.za)

Hour-and-a-half twilight booze cruise of the harbor and nearby beachfronts. The choice is yours: Either sail on a yacht or whiz around on a motorboat. Departure times change with the season. Reservations recommended. \$29, sparkling wine and soft drinks included.

### SHOP African Art Factory

Block E, Old City Hospital Complex, 2 Portswood Rd., 011-27/21-421-9910, [africanartfactory.co.za](http://africanartfactory.co.za)

Retail outlet for international craft trading operation that helps local entrepreneurs with development, marketing, and export. It sells imaginative beadwork and high-quality ceramics, textiles, and glassware. Short walk from the V&A Waterfront up Portswood Rd., entrance opposite Breakwater Lodge.

### SHOP Carrol Boyes Functional Art

Store 6180 Victoria Wharf, 011-27/21-418-0595, [carrolboyes.co.za](http://carrolboyes.co.za)

S.A.'s most famous designer makes addictively collectible pewter tableware adorned with whimsical illustrative touches, such as serpents or couples locked in an embrace. Although she now has a shop in New York City, it's worth coming here for the fantastic selection and better prices.

### SHOP YDE

225 Victoria Wharf, 011-27/21-425-6232, [yde.co.za](http://yde.co.za)

Short for Young Designers Emporium. One of a national outlet of chic clothing boutiques that showcase local prêt-à-porter designs for 20- and 30-something tastes. Stocked with garments from some of the country's best labels, like Flava and Superstar.

### \$ SPLURGE Civair Helicopter Flight

E. Pier Rd., 011-27/21-419-5182, [civair.co.za](http://civair.co.za)

View the splendor of the Cape from above on a private helicopter flight that passes over City Bowl, Signal Hill, Twelve Apostles, Constantia vineyards, beaches, and more. Twenty-minute flights start at \$294 for one or two people. Note: The per-person price comes down if there are more people on board.

**TIP** There are more cell phones than landlines in South Africa, so if you need to stay connected, rent a cell at the airport when you arrive. Go to Vodashop Rentafone in the domestic or international Arrivals Lounges, or book online at [rentafone.net](http://rentafone.net). Rates run \$3.75 per day for phone and SIM card rental, and 39¢ per minute for outgoing calls; incoming calls are free.

# Budget Travel Cape Town / Mountains

## SNAP GUIDE

Table Mountain National Park bisects the long Cape Peninsula, rising up from miles of beaches and dividing warm waters from cold. It's covered with animals and bushy indigenous plants called fynbos.

### SEE Cape Point

011-27/21-780-9204, [capepoint.co.za](http://capepoint.co.za)

Often called the southern tip of Africa (actually, that would be Cape Agulhas), this is where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans converge. But the reserve also has mountains that beg to be explored, as well as untouched beaches. Watch for mountain zebras, antelope, and wandering troops of baboons. \$7.50. Drive time: one hour.

“Never, never, and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another.”

—*Nelson Mandela*

### SEE Chapman's Peak Drive

011-27/21-791-8222, [chapmanspeakdrive.co.za](http://chapmanspeakdrive.co.za)

Recently rebuilt after severe rockfalls, this white-knuckler of a road from Hout Bay to Noordhoek hugs sheer cliffs overlooking rough Atlantic waters. After five and a half miles and 114 curves, you'll need a drink, and the pub at Chapman's Peak Hotel (Main Rd., Hout Bay, 011-27/21-790-1036) is a good choice. Tip: The best views are on the return trip. Outbound toll \$3.60.

### SEE Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens

Rhodes Dr., Newlands, 011-27/21-799-8783, [nbi.ac.za](http://nbi.ac.za)

As one of the world's six Floral Kingdoms, the Cape Peninsula has thousands of plant species that aren't found anywhere else on the planet. A favorite local picnic spot. Tours depart 10 A.M. on Tues. and Sat. Admission \$4. Buses run three times a day in both directions, weekdays only, from Golden Acre Terminus in Cape Town, \$1 each way. Call for timetable (011-27/21-507-8800, [gabs.co.za](http://gabs.co.za)), or take Hop On–Hop Off bus. Drive time: 15 min.

### SEE Table Mountain Aerial Cableway

Lower Cable Station, Tafelberg Rd., 011-27/21-424-8181, [tablemountain.net](http://tablemountain.net)

Ascend or descend Table Mountain by an aerial cable car that slowly spins around. It only operates in good weather. Prepare to stand on line, and bring a sweater, as you'll climb above the clouds. Departs every 15 minutes. \$10 one way, \$19 round trip. Check the website for seasonal discounts.

### EAT Lister's Place

Tokai Arboretum, 011-27/21-715-4512

Before you set out on a walk through Tokai Forest or hit one of the peninsula's few mountain-biking trails (based here), fortify yourself with a homemade chicken pie or toasted sandwich at the simple yet sweet restaurant housed in a stone cottage shaded by centuries-old trees at the trailhead. Closed Mon. Drive time: 30 min.

### SHOP Open-Air Sculpture Market

M65, between Scarborough and Cape Point Reserve

Shortly after Atlantic Road to Cape Point curves inland, in the middle of nowhere, you'll come face-to-face with an entire army of Shona sculptures—an art form perfected by the Shona tribe from neighboring Zimbabwe. The smooth sculptures are carved from local stone into animal, human, and spiritually significant shapes. Pull over and bargain.

### PLAY Lion's Head

011-27/21-689-4441, [tmnp.co.za](http://tmnp.co.za)

A short yet steep climb above the city is well worth the effort. Even beginners can do it, and the reward is the bird's-eye view of the city and Atlantic seaboard. Some ardent hikers do it by moonlight. The climb takes about an hour and a half.

### PLAY Silvermine

Ou Kaapse Weg, between Noordhoek and Tokai, 011-27/21-780-9002, [tmnp.co.za](http://tmnp.co.za)

One of the highest points in vast Table Mountain National Park, and accessible by car. Some parts resemble moonscapes; others are covered with proteas. Picnic by the dam close to parking, or climb up to the lookout on the Noordhoek Circuit for views of endless Long Beach surf. Admission \$1.50. Drive time: 45 min.

### PLAY Solole Game Reserve

6 Wood Rd., Sunnydale, Noordhoek Valley, 011-27/21-785-3248, [solole.co.za](http://solole.co.za)

Urban conservation reserve located a half hour's drive from the city center. Cape buffalo and nine antelope species roam freely on mountainous terrain. Learn about indigenous animal and plant life on game drives and guided walks. Closed Mon. Walks \$16, game drives \$5.

### \$ SPLURGE Para-Pax Tandem Paragliding

011-27/82-881-4724, [parapax.com](http://parapax.com)

Tandem paragliding with licensed pilots. Jump from Lion's Head or Signal Hill. No experience required. \$123 for 50-minute flight, add \$16.50 for midair pics of screams and grimaces and \$16.50 for round-trip shuttle to/from Cape Town.

# Budget Travel Cape Town / Winelands

## SNAP GUIDE

Dutch settlers in the 1680s quickly recognized the viticultural potential of the Cape. Today, its vineyards stretch from suburban Constantia throughout much of the province, known for its restaurants.

### SEE Groot Constantia Estate

Main Rd., Constantia, 011-27/21-794-5128, [grootconstantia.co.za](http://grootconstantia.co.za)

Some of S.A.'s oldest vineyards are in this leafy Cape Town suburb, 20 minutes from the CBD. Picturesque setting and original Cape Dutch buildings. Simon's Restaurant (Groot Constantia, 011-27/21-794-1143), is great for a breakfast or lunch overlooking vineyards. Or buy a bottle for about \$6 and picnic on grassy slopes surrounded by vines. Wine tasting and cellar tour \$4.

### SEE Museum van de Caab

Solms/Delta Estate, Delta Rd. off R45, Franschhoek Valley, 011-27/21-874-3937, [solms-delta.com](http://solms-delta.com)

Recounts the soap opera–like tale of a typical South African vineyard over centuries, and the free and enslaved families whose lives were dedicated to it. The museum also features the moving oral histories of farm workers on video. Call a day ahead and order a picnic lunch (\$15) to savor by the lovely wooded river on the estate. Free admission and wine tastings. Drive time: 45 min.

### EAT Moyo

Spier, R310, Stellenbosch, 011-27/21-809-1133, [spier.co.za](http://spier.co.za)

What at first sight seems like Disney Africa is irresistibly fun with great food. Have your face painted while you dine in your own private tree house. There's also live African music, dancing, and a huge buffet of traditional dishes. Reservations are essential. \$29 for lunch or dinner. Drive time: 45 min.

### EAT Reuben's

Oude Stallen Centre, 19 Huguenot Rd., Franschhoek, 011-27/21-876-3772

A local chef whips up heady dishes from local ingredients, like salmon-and-trout fish cakes and guinea-fowl breasts with tarragon, in his signature bistro on Franschhoek's main drag. The elegant contemporary decor has whimsical accents, like the Warholesque mural that touts Reuben's Condensed Tomato Soup instead of Campbell's. Drive time: 45 min.

### DRINK Buitenverwachting

Klein Constantia Rd., Constantia, 011-27/21-794-5190, [buitenverwachting.co.za](http://buitenverwachting.co.za)

The name means "Beyond Expectation." A graceful Cape favorite in the idyllic Constantia hills, best known for its stellar wine list, which includes standouts like Buiten Blanc, a full-bodied sauvignon-based blend. Free tastings. Drive time: 30 min.

### DRINK Cabrière Estate

Haute Cabrière, Pass Rd., Franschhoek, 011-27/21-876-2630, [cabriere.co.za](http://cabriere.co.za)

An eccentric winemaker combines heavy-handed pours (try his superbly spicy pinot noir or a sparkling wine) with hysterical anecdotes about his family tree and his bank manager. Bottles opened by showy decapitation with French cavalry saber. 11 A.M.–1 P.M., Sat. Tasting \$4. Drive time: one hour.

### SHOP Hillcrest Berry Orchards

Helshoogte Pass, between Stellenbosch and Franschhoek, 011-27/21-885-1629, [hillcrestberries.co.za](http://hillcrestberries.co.za)

A family-owned farm that produces luscious jams worthy of cramming into your luggage to bring home. Its best flavors are black currant–raspberry and Morello cherry. The restaurant-tearoom, which has sweeping valley views, also features numerous berry dishes. Drive time: 45 min.

### SHOP Huguenot Fine Chocolates

62 Huguenot Rd., Franschhoek, 011-27/21-876-4096

Owned by two previously disadvantaged locals handpicked by a sponsor to receive chocolate-making training in Belgium and seed capital for their choco-boutique. Their creations, especially the champagne truffles and ginger-studded chocolates, are delicious. Drive time: 45 min.

### PLAY Dewdale Fly Fishery

Robertsvei Rd., Franschhoek, 011-27/21-876-2755, [dewdale.com](http://dewdale.com)

Learn the fine art of fly-fishing in the trout-stocked rivers. Professional anglers are patient with beginners and can help hone existing skills. A terrific excuse to soak up the Alpine-like setting. \$18 for a full day of fly-fishing, includes rentals and instruction. Drive time: one hour.

### SPURGE Santé Winelands Wellness Centre

Simonsvlei Rd., R45, Paarl-Franschhoek Valley, 011-27/21-875-8100, [santewellness.co.za](http://santewellness.co.za)

Ritzy wine-valley spa that pampers the body and spirit with grape-inspired tonics. Its signature vinotherapy treatments include a "chardonnay cocoon wrap" and a "Shiraz grape–seed scrub" (both \$43). A full day of vinotherapy is \$200. Drive time: 45 min.

### LOCAL SLANG

Some say there's more slang in South African English than there is English. A few valuable terms to know:

**Cheers** bottoms up, good-bye, or thank you

**Lekker** nice

**Jol** a party or good time

**Just now** in a little while

**Now now** not right now, but sooner than just now

**Now** at this moment

**My China** endearing term for a friend or mate

**Shame** it's a shame, or oh, how sweet

**Braai** a backyard BBQ—don't be surprised if you're asked to bring your own meat and drinks

**Dop** an alcoholic drink

**Robot** traffic light

**Stopstreet** a stop sign