The best places to eat, sleep and play in Capetown

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INTRODUCTION

TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.

Inside
CAPETOWN

Cape Town glistens at the southern toe of the African continent, a seaside gem for travelers willing to make the long journey. With its dramatic bookends of Table Mountain and the ocean, it’s no surprise that it’s often called one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The Blaauwberg and False Bay coasts attract sun worshippers, surfers and divers to their white sand beaches and azure waters. The Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve provides sweeping sea vistas, hiking trails and wildlife encounters.

This “Mother City,” the oldest in South Africa, also offers a wealth of culture and history. Tours run to Robben Island, the site of Nelson Mandela’s imprisonment under apartheid, while the Castle of Good Hope, built by the Dutch East India Company, provides historical context. Wine tasting, whale-watching and concerts at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens add to the diverse mix. But try not to over-plan. Cape Town rewards spontaneity with delights around every bend.

Cape Town has a Mediterranean-like climate. Summer, which runs from December through March, is warm and dry, with up to 14 hours of sun each day. The legendary Cape Doctor has diminished in recent years, but the strong southeasterly wind helps to keep the area dry. In summer months, the resulting cloud cover can provide refreshing relief from the heat. The cooler autumn months are seen by many as the perfect time to visit.

PACKING TIPS

1. “Be sure to bring sun hats and sun cream with high SPF factor.”—TripAdvisor Member, South Africa

2. Pack a lightweight jacket, “preferably waterproof, just in case.”—TripAdvisor Member, Port Elizabeth

3. “The only areas you need malaria medication for are Kruger National Park and some areas in northern Natal. You really don’t need it for Cape Town.”—TripAdvisor Member, South Africa
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3
Top VIEWS

CAPE TOWN’S BEST VIEWS
“For the very best view of Cape Town, you must drive the short distance to Blaauwberg beach (Bloubergstrand). It provides an almost endless walk with the view that appears on almost every tourist brochure.”—TripAdvisor Member
Bloubergstrand, Blaauwberg Coast

If it’s a clear day, don’t miss the chance to take in the views from the top of Table Mountain. “The cable cars are great, circular and roomy, and they rotate slowly as they rise. On top, there is lots of space to wander about, looking down on the city and Robben Island. It’s got a real mountain feel, but there’s lots of sea air.”—TripAdvisor Member, Ireland
Table Mountain, 021 701 8692

Either hit the trail or catch the funicular up to the lighthouse that adorns Cape Point. “On a clear, sunny day, the views from the lighthouse back up the Indian Ocean are incredible. In addition to views, there is an interesting animal population in and around the park: ostriches, penguins and baboons.”—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle, Wash.
Cape Point, Cape of Good Hope, 021 780 9204

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions
1. Table Mountain, 021 701 8692
2. Langa Township
3. Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, Rhodes Drive, Newlands, Private Bag X7, Claremont, 021 799 8899
4. Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, Off the M65, 021 780 9204
5. Boulders Beach
6. Bloubergstrand Beach
7. Cape of Good Hope, Table Mountain National Park
8. Signal Hill
9. Lion’s Head Mountain
10. Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, 021 408 7600

FAMILIES
“There are over 3,000 living sea animals, including sharks, fish, seals, turtles and penguins” at Two Oceans Aquarium. “It’s an impressive place. The various sharks are a must-see.”—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom
Two Oceans Aquarium, Waterfront, 021 418 3823

“Boulders is an easy, fun thing to do. Kids love to wander with the penguins. In the evenings especially, they bray like comic donkeys and are entertaining to watch.”—TripAdvisor Member, Ireland
Boulders Beach, Near Simon’s Town

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Boulders Beach, Near Simon’s Town

ROMANCE
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“While you are in Cape Town, look out for the sunset champagne cruise. The experience is worth every penny. We’ve never seen a sunset like it. It was breathtaking.”—TripAdvisor Member, Northern Ireland
Waterfront Boat Company, Quay 5, Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, 021 418 5806

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Spend a day in wine country. “Franschhoek is a beautiful lunch spot with several great restaurants. Some of the best South African wines come from the Franschhoek valley.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cape Town
Franschhoek, 021 876 3603

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Franschhoek, 021 876 3603
Where to PLAY

BUDGET
Contemporary art from the continent is displayed at the South African National Gallery, along with indigenous sculptures and beadwork. Free on Saturdays.
South African National Gallery, Government Avenue, Gardens, 021 467 4660

Explore the cobblestone streets of Bo-Kaap, which “has a very interesting history. It was the one area that wasn’t subject to forced removals in the apartheid era.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cape Town
Bo-Kaap

Fans of open-air markets should “go to Greenmarket Square for African crafts. Be sure to haggle.”—TripAdvisor Member
Greenmarket Square, City Center

ADVENTURE
“Try abseiling off the top of Table Mountain and turn yourself around halfway down to take in the view of Camps Bay and beyond. If you’re up for it, you’ll love every minute.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chelmsford, England
Abseil Africa, Long Street, 021 424 4760

Get the blood racing with a great white shark dive in nearby Gansbaai. “Even if you don’t dive, consider going to view these amazing creatures from the boat. They are quite remarkable.”—TripAdvisor Member
Great White Shark Dive, Gansbaai

Soar above Cape Town on a tandem paragliding flight. “It’s an amazing experience; well worth the price.”—TripAdvisor Member, Brussels, Belgium
Paragliding, Para-Pax, 082 881 4724

EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL
“To non-Africans, Robben Island is synonymous with Mandela’s incarceration. But it has a longer and bloodier history, and this is brought home well during the tour. A moving and worthwhile experience.”—TripAdvisor Member, Ireland
Robben Island, 021 413 4200

“The District Six Museum is well worth visiting. It gives you a real feeling for what the place was like before apartheid and the feelings of people coming to terms with it.”—TripAdvisor Member, Ireland
District Six Museum, 25A Buitenkant St., 021 466 7200

Built by the Dutch East India Company between 1666 and 1679, the Castle of Good Hope is the oldest building in South Africa. The Castle Guard performs traditional ceremonies on weekdays.
Castle of Good Hope, Off Buitenkant Street, 021 787 1260

RELAXATION
“The area is very touristy, but walking around the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront on a lovely spring day and watching seals sunbake on the wharf is truly enchanting and wonderful.”—TripAdvisor Member, Sydney, Australia
Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, 021 408 7600

“Head to The Strand for a swim at its long, sandy beach” or a day of lounging in the sun.—TripAdvisor Member, South Africa
The Strand, False Bay Coast, 021 853 1688

“Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens is well-maintained with an amazing collection of protea and other South African plants. A great place for a picnic or walk.”—TripAdvisor Member, Boston, Mass.
Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, Rhodes Drive, Newlands, 021 799 8899

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It’s almost like being there!

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“Langa Township is an absolute must-see. Look for a tour company that takes small groups. Many tours are led by Africans who live in the township. Incredibly moving and educational.”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

The Cape Town Explorer is double-decker bus for sightseeing in the city. “It’s a hop-on/hop-off arrangement, and your ticket is valid for the whole day. It can be a fairly leisurely way of viewing the city.”—TripAdvisor Member, North Yorkshire, England

Book a Peninsula Tour that includes the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. “The Cape Peninsula is a spectacularly beautiful place, and anyone who visits and doesn’t go on a tour of the peninsula is really missing out.”—TripAdvisor Member, Bristol, England

WHERE to eat

FAMILIES

“We thought the whole experience at the Africa Cafe was great! Our teenage daughters enjoyed following along with the menu to see the ingredients and where each dish came from.”—TripAdvisor Member, Wassenaar, The Netherlands

Africa Cafe, 108 Shortmarket St., 021 422 0221

“Brio is guaranteed to transport you back to an era of glamour and indulgent living. Think chandeliers, a library with wood paneled walls and a roaring fireplace. Then, add succulent food, astounding service and live music in the background. This restaurant will remind you exactly why one enjoys eating out!”—TripAdvisor Member, Cape Town

Brio, 130 Adderley St., 021 422 0654

“Catharina’s restaurant sits in magnificent surroundings in the Steenberg wine estate. Do try to arrive before sunset to appreciate the beauty. The service was world-class attentive without being intrusive. The food was excellent in quality, presentation, quantity and price.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cape Town

Catharina’s, Steenberg Hotel, 10802 Steenberg Estate, Tokai Road, Constantia, 021 713 2222

ROMANCE

“The Brass Bell is a wonderful place. The food is very good and an excellent value. I love the ocean view. If you’re visiting Cape Town, you must go!”—TripAdvisor Member, Kalk Bay

The Brass Bell Restaurant, Kalk Bay, 021 788 5455

“Borusso’s almost once a week. Our children love it. Our little one always gets dough to play with. Service is speedy and very friendly.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cape Town

Borusso’s, Main Road, Kenilworth, 021 761 5822

“Don’t miss La Colombe, which pairs a glorious setting with exciting and delicious food. The care and attention to detail was evident throughout. We particularly liked the rustic and romantic setting, as well as the friendly service. The food was as good as anything I’ve eaten anywhere.”—TripAdvisor Member, Melbourne, Australia

La Colombe, Constantia Uitsig Wine Estate, Constantia, 021 794 4239

BUDGET

“The Ocean Basket makes the best fish in the world. The fried calamari is just heaven!”—TripAdvisor Member, Gloucestershire, England

Ocean Basket, V&A Waterfront, Shop 222, 021 419 4300

“Arnold’s is a must. The mixed grill is a must.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cape Town

Arnold’s, 60 Kloof St., 021 424 4344

“Your best priced take-away food in the Waterfront is from Pick ‘n Pay food store. They have dishes that vary from day to day. The complex has seating at the rear with good views.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cape Town

Pick ‘n Pay, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront Wharf Pantry, Waterfront, 021 418 3614

Want more information on Capetown? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Capetown or any other destination you choose.
WHERE to eat

HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

Try Willougby & Co. for "excellent simple but fresh food, mainly seafood and sushi. Good wine list including recommendations. More buffet style than real restaurant, but quite popular and almost always full."—TripAdvisor Member

Willougby & Co., V&A Waterfront, 021 418 6115

Enjoy “superb lunch flavors” at Addis in Cape. “Excellent Ethiopian flavored meal, with five vegetarian options and two meat dishes, served family style. The mix of flavors and spices was perfect. The service was just right for lunch—quick but not rushed.”—TripAdvisor Member

Addis in Cape, 41 Church St., 021 424 5722

The menu at the Mango Ginger Bakery includes many wheat & gluten-free options and every dish is made with organic ingredients.

Mango Ginger Bakery, 105 Lower Main Road, 021 448 2500

ROYALE CAFE

“95 Keerom is the kind of restaurant that just gets it all right. Authentic modern Italian food the way it should be: top quality ingredients cooked simply, by a chef who knows what he’s doing. Service from staff who care. We went twice, it was so good!”—TripAdvisor Member

95 Keerom, 95 Keerom St., 021 422 0765

“Royale Cafe is a must if you’re on Long Street in Cape Town! Burgers and sweet potato chips were amazing. The milkshakes are to die for! Place is really cool and hip. Go when you’re hungry, as the portions are big.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Royale Cafe, 273 Long St., 021 422 4536

“Take a drive 25 minutes out of the city center to a quaint restaurant called Harbour House. It has excellent seafood and fish and is set in a harbor area that is totally unlike anywhere else in Cape Town.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Harbour House, Kalk Bay Harbour, Kalk Bay, 021 788 4133

HIDDEN GEMS

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Go for a walk while raising funds for charity during the Discovery Cape Times Big Walk. Each year over 30,000 participate in the 5 - 80km walk that features 8 different routes around Cape Town. (November 13)

Discovery Cape Times Big Walk, Various starting points, http://www.bigwalk.co.za

See some of the PGA European Tour’s top players swing their way toward a prize purse of €1 million at the South African Open Championship. (November 24 – 27)

South African Open Championship, Pearl Valley Signature Golf Estate, Paarl, 021 867 8000, http://www.southafricanopen.co.za

Party in the streets with live local bands, artisan markets and children's interactive entertainment at the annual OBZ Festival. (December 3 – 5)

OBZ Festival, Observatory, http://www.obsarts.org.za

Put on your hard hat and tool belt at the annual Mother City Queer Costume Party, and remember - costumes are mandatory! (December 17)

Mother City Queer Costume Party, Crew Bar, 021 426 5709, http://www.mcqp.co.za/

Cheer on the athletes as they row toward victory at the dazzling Cape Town Dragon Boat Festival on the popular V&A Waterfront. (March 17 – 19)


Call an Expedia Travel Specialist now 877 633 3716
Where to STAY

FAMILIES
“The Cape Royale is possibly the best hotel I have ever stayed at! Since it is a 5-star hotel, I did expect good rooms and good service. But the staff really went the extra mile to make this trip a wonderful experience.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England
Cape Royale, 47 Main Road, Green Point, 021 430 0500

“Rooms have been refurbished and now are as good as if The Table Bay Hotel opened yesterday. The breakfast is without a doubt the best anywhere: over 12 fresh juices, oysters, sushi, fresh fruit and great pastries.”—TripAdvisor Member, Lisbon, Portugal
The Table Bay Hotel, Quay 6, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, 021 406 5000

“Coming through the gates of the Mount Nelson Hotel, my daughter said ‘Ah, this feels like home!’ A real testament to how welcome the hotel makes small children feel. A wonderful place to stay.”—TripAdvisor Member
Mount Nelson Hotel, 76 Orange St., 021 483 1000

ROMANCE
“The entire Cape Heritage Hotel team makes this such a special place. They provide the highest quality of service. The décor of each room, comfort of the beds and delicious breakfasts” also set this hotel apart.—TripAdvisor Member, Leamington Spa, England
Cape Heritage Hotel, 90 Bree St., 021 424 4646

“Tucked away in a corner of the city with ‘beautiful décor and luxurious bedding,’ An African Villa is “a stylish and sophisticated, yet warm and inviting haven.””—TripAdvisor Member, United States
An African Villa, 19 Carstens St., Tamboerskloof, 021 423 2162

“A stylish and sophisticated, yet warm and inviting”

BUDGET
“It was a terrible mistake to stay just one night in the lovely Blackheath Lodge. The decoration is done with much love and a sense of humor. The lodge is located on a small, quiet side road. They also arranged transport from and to the airport. That worked perfectly.”—TripAdvisor Member, Zurich, Switzerland
Blackheath Lodge, 6 Blackheath Road, Sea Point, 021 439 2541

“The Upper Eastside Hotel is absolutely amazing. You feel like you have walked into another world. Service was friendly and the rooms were immaculate. The entire experience was half the price you’d expect to pay.”—TripAdvisor Member, East London, South Africa
Upper Eastside Hotel, 31 Brickfield Road, 021 404 0570

“Coming through the gates of the Cape Royale, the staff was superb, the hotel is beautiful, the food top-notch and the facilities were great, especially the spa.”—TripAdvisor Member, Lancashire, England
Cape Royale, 47 Main Road, Green Point, 021 430 0500

LUXURY
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The Table Bay Hotel, Quay 6, Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, 021 406 5000

“Consider yourself very lucky if you can stay at dysART. This place is a gem. You arrive, and it feels like a little heaven. Everything is neat and clean, and the decor is fantastic. Such attention to detail!”—TripAdvisor Member, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
dysART, 17 Dysart Road, Green Point, 021 439 2832

“Four Rosmead is a gem. The decor of the rooms is stunning, and the breakfast is a feast of fresh fruit, cereals, meats, cheeses. The staff are lovely and so helpful. There’s also a ‘pamper room,’ where they’ll book you a massage.”—TripAdvisor Member, Stafford, U.K.
Four Rosmead, 4 Rosmead Avenue, Oranjezicht, 021 480 3810

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Four Rosmead, 4 Rosmead Avenue, Oranjezicht, 021 480 3810
Where to STAY

HIDDEN GEMS

Set on the slopes of Table Mountain, "Alta Bay is quiet and private, but close enough to town at all times. The staff is very attentive without being intrusive. A wonderful find."—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Alta Bay, 12 Invermark Crescent, Higgovale, 021 487 8800

"18 on Crox is a beautiful haven of a privately owned boutique hotel. Food is scrumptious, the rooms are very chic and the service of the hosts is unrivaled."—TripAdvisor Member, Bern, Switzerland

18 on Crox, 18 Croxteth Road, Green Point, 021 439 3871

“The Derwent House staff couldn’t do enough for us, from arranging taxis to booking restaurants and tours. Our rooms were spacious, clean and had great views of Lion’s Head and Table Mountain. They made our holiday extra special!”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Derwent House Boutique Hotel, 14 Derwent Road, Tamboerskloof, 021 422 2763

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