

CAPE TOWN È SOUTH AFRICA GENERAL INFORMATION



Cape Town is the second-most populated city in South Africa after Johannesburg, and the provincial capital and primate city of the Western Cape.

As the seat of the National Parliament, it is also the legislative capital of the country. It forms part of the City of Cape Town metropolitan municipality

The city is famous for its harbour as well as its natural setting in the Cape floral kingdom, as well as for such well-known landmarks as Table Mountain and Cape Point. Cape Town is also Africa's most popular tourist destination.

Located on the shore of Table Bay, Cape Town was originally developed by the Dutch East India Company as a supply station for Dutch ships sailing to Eastern Africa, India, and the Far East. Jan van Riebeeck's arrival on 6 April 1652 established the first permanent European settlement in South Africa.

Cape Town quickly outgrew its original purpose as the first European outpost at the Castle of Good Hope, becoming the economic and cultural hub of the Cape Colony. Until the Witwatersrand Gold Rush and the development of Johannesburg, Cape Town was the largest city in South Africa.

Today it is one of the most multicultural cities in the world, reflecting its role as a major destination for immigrants and expatriates to South Africa. As of 2011 the metropolitan region had an estimated population of 3.74 million.

The city was named the World Design Capital for 2014 by the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design.

Climate

Cape Town has a Mediterranean climate, with mild, moderately wet winters and dry, warm summers.

Late spring and early summer may sometimes feature a strong wind from the south-east, known locally as the Cape Doctor, so called because it blows air pollution away. This wind is

caused by a high-pressure system which sits in the South Atlantic to the west of Cape Town, known as the South Atlantic High.

In October the average high is around 21°C (70 F) and the average low is 15°C (60 F)

Language

Afrikaans is the de facto national language of spoken by the vast majority of South Africans. Additional to Afrikaans, English is the most spoken language in Cape Town.

Currency

The currency in South Africa is the South African Rand (ZAR). The current exchange rate is:

1 EUR = ZAR 14.3938

1 ZAR = EUR 0.06940

1 USD = ZAR 10,5826

1 ZAR = USD 0.09449

Source: Oanda.com / 25 June 2014

Currency exchange offices . You will usually find a currency exchange counter at international airports throughout South Africa; these can be identified by the %Exchange+ sign. You will have to show your passport in order to be able to exchange money. This is a convenient way of changing currency.

ATM . One of the most convenient ways to buy Rand is by using an ATM. You will often receive better exchange rates, even though you have to pay a service fee, as with most ATMs outside your bank network.

Credit card . If you have a credit card, you will find that it provides one of the best exchange rates.

Voltage

Electrical sockets/outlets in South Africa usually supply electricity at between 220/230 V; Plug M. You will require a voltage converter and plug adapter.

Local Time

There is only one time zone in South Africa: one for the Northeast, one for the Pacific and one Central time zone. Between the first and second, and the second and third, there is a one hour difference.

Cape Town, South Africa time is GMT/UTC +02:00 hours.

Please note that all individuals are responsible for their own travel arrangements and visa matters.