



## reasons to meet in the western cape

- 1. Language:** While French and German are becoming increasingly common with immigration from Europe and west and Central Africa, the business language of Cape Town and the Western Cape is English.
- 2. A centre for knowledge:** Cape Town and the Western Cape is an intellectual magnet, with four world class universities and other research institutions in fields as diverse as astronomy, science, medicine and social politics. It is also the legislative capital of South Africa. The destination is a fertile ground for intellectual dialogue and the exchange of ideas.
- 3. An excellent business tourism infrastructure:** There are a host of world-class multi-purpose venues to choose from, including the Cape Town International Convention Centre, an impressive, architecturally striking city landmark. The destination also has an excellent support system for hosting any event, from the largest convention to innovative themed events.
- 4. Easy access:** Cape Town International Airport is served by 20 international airlines on a weekly basis, linking the destination to global hubs like Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Singapore and London. On arrival, access to ground transport is simple and convenient, with taxis and coaches the most obvious options. The airport is situated 20 minutes from the city centre.
- 5. Value for money:** The destination is recognised internationally as one of the most affordable business tourism and incentive travel destinations in the world.
- 6. Room for everyone:** Cape Town and Western Cape has an extensive selection of first class hotels that promise guests pleasurable experiences; from 5-star hotels to excellent bed and breakfast establishments. The region boasts more than 20 000 rooms.

**7. Variety is the spice of life:** Cape Town and the Western Cape is a cosmopolitan destination, where cultural diversity is welcomed. Immigration from Europe and Africa have lent the city in particular an exciting vibrancy, adding to its creativity. A wealth of artistic and musical talent, opera, ballet, drama and comedy are always on offer.

**8. First class wining and dining:** The region is one of the wine capitals of the world, and the renowned Cape

Winelands is both within the city and on its doorstep. The destination's many restaurants serve traditional or contemporary Cape and international cuisine.

**9. The sheer beauty of it all:** One of the reasons Africa gets under the skin. The region offers honestly unparalleled natural wonders, from the magnificent Table Mountain to pristine beaches, the big skies of mountains and semi-deserts and the most diverse of the world's six botanical kingdoms.

## facts at your fingertips

**Population:** Cape Town and the Western Cape has a population of 4,6 million.

**Water:** Cape Town and the Western Cape's tap water is amongst the best in the world, with well-developed water supply infrastructure.

**Climate:** The Cape is a year-round destination with warm summers and mild, cool winters. The climate is described as Mediterranean, with summer temperatures ranging between 15°C (59°F) and 27°C (80.6°F), while winters see the mercury dropping to a mild 7°C (44.6°F) at night and rising to a comfortable 18°C (64.4°F) by day.

**Currency:** The South African currency is the Rand, which is made up of 100 cents. Foreign currency can be exchanged at commercial banks and at various Bureaux de Change.

**Taxes:** Value Added Tax (VAT) of 14 per cent is levied on purchases and services. Foreign visitors are able to reclaim their VAT on purchases if they have spent more than R250.

**Time:** South African time is set at GMT+2. There are no time-zone differences within South Africa and there is no daylight saving system in summer.

**Driving:** An international drivers licence is required when driving in South Africa. Driving is on the lefthand side of the road and speed is calibrated in kilometres. Cash or petrol

card are required to pay for fuel.

**Visas:** Visas are issued by South African missions abroad and must be affixed to the applicant's passport before departing for South Africa. Visas are not issued on arrival at South African ports of entry. In order to gain a visa you are required to have two unused pages in your passport. Not all nationalities require visas to enter South Africa. [www.home-affairs.gov.za](http://www.home-affairs.gov.za).

**Customs:** Personal effects (used) are admitted duty free. The allowance for visitors to South Africa is as follows (free of duty per adult):

- 1 litre of spirits
- 2 litres of wine
- 400 cigarettes
- 50 cigars
- 50 ml perfume
- 250 ml eau de toilette
- Gifts and souvenirs to the value of R3 000

**Health requirements:** No vaccinations are required for cholera, smallpox or malaria. If arriving from a yellow fever zone, you must have a valid international yellow fever inoculation certificate. Due to the threat of malaria contamination, preventative medication is necessary for the northern parts of South Africa and is obtainable from all pharmacies in South Africa. Cape Town and the Western Cape is a non-malaria area.

