

Fact Sheet – Cape Town, South Africa

Information sourced at <http://www.capetown.travel/>

Population

About 3.5-million people live in Cape Town, South Africa's second most-populated city.

Time

Cape Town lies in the GMT +2 time zone and does not have daylight saving time.

Area

South Africa is a large country, of 2 455km²(948mi²).

Government

- Mayor of Cape Town: Patricia de Lille (Democratic Alliance)
- Premier of the Western Cape: Helen Zille (Democratic Alliance)
- Cape Town is the legislative capital of South Africa
- South Africa's Parliament sits in Cape Town

History

Cape Town was officially founded in 1652 when Jan van Riebeeck of the Dutch East India Company based in The Netherlands arrived to set up a halfway point for ships travelling to the East. Portuguese explorers arrived in the Cape in the 15th Century and Khoisan people inhabited the area prior to European arrival.

Electricity

South Africa operates on a 220/230V AC system and plugs have three round prongs.

Telephone

Country code: 0027

City code: 021

Entrance

Visa requirements depend on nationality, but all foreign visitors are required to hold a valid passport. South Africa requires a valid yellow fever certificate from all foreign visitors and citizens over 1 year of age travelling from an infected area or having been in transit through infected areas.

For visa requirements, please contact your nearest South African diplomatic mission.

Fast facts

- Cape Town is the capital of the Western Cape.
- The city's motto is "Spes Bona", which is Latin for "good hope".
- Cape Town is twinned with London, Buenos Aires, Nice, San Francisco and several other international cities.
- The Cape Town Stadium was built ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup and hosted eight soccer matches during the tournament, including the semi-final between Uruguay and The Netherlands. (The Netherlands won the game 3-2.)
- The world's first heart transplant was performed by Dr Christiaan Barnard in Cape Town in 1967.

- Famous Capetonians include
 - Nobel literature laureate JM Coetzee,
 - Singer Brenda Fassie,
 - swimmer Natalie du Toit and
 - entrepreneur Mark Shuttleworth.
- Cape Town is home to the world's largest individually timed cycle race, the Cape Argus Cycle Tour.
- Cape Town is sometimes called the "Tavern of the seas".

Getting around Cape Town

When navigating Cape Town, it's easiest to think of it in eight areas, each with their own idiosyncratic offerings and special character. These divisions are purely for navigational purposes, however, and we encourage you to discover and enjoy the full range of possibilities Cape Town has to offer.

ATLANTIC SEABOARD

The Atlantic Seaboard, also known as Cape Town's "Riviera", stretches from the V&A Waterfront on the north shore of Table Mountain, all the way down the west side of the Cape Peninsula, stopping just short of Hout Bay. It takes in Green Point, Sea Point, Fresnaye, Bantry Bay, Camps Bay, Bakoven, Oudekraal and Llandudno along the way, and includes some of the world's finest beaches and trendy seafront hot spots. These are all connected by a picturesque scenic drive, flanked by the Twelve Apostles mountain range and the Atlantic Ocean.

CITY CENTRE

Aptly referred to as the City Bowl, the heart of the city is held in an enclosed basin formed between the Atlantic Ocean and the face of Table Mountain, flanked on one side by Lion's Head and Signal Hill, and on the other by Devil's Peak. From the busy sea port, through the business centre, and up into the more residential slopes, the city reveals its rich history and contemporary metropolitan character. Cape Town City Centre is made up of the Foreshore, CBD, Bo-Kaap, Gardens, Higgovale, Tamboerskloof, Oranjezicht, Vredehoek and Devil's Peak.

PENINSULA

The Peninsula is home to one of the world's most spectacular passes, Chapman's Peak Drive, as well as seaside villages and suburbs that remain far from the madding crowd. Cape Point is where the cold Benguela current on the west coast and the warm Agulhus current on the east coast merge, often in cataclysmic confrontation. It is also one of the highest sea cliffs in the world – 249m above sea level. The Peninsula is made up of Hout Bay, Chapman's Peak Drive, Noordhoek, Kommetjie, Scarborough, Cape Point, Simon's Town, Fish Hoek, Kalk Bay, St James and Muizenburg.

SOUTHERN SUBURBS

For the most part, the Southern Suburbs lie at the base of Table Mountain National Park, a mountainous backbone that stretches all the way from Signal Hill to Cape Point. It is also home to the University of Cape Town. From the more bohemian student and upwardly mobile areas closer to town, the suburbs span out towards the beautiful Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, and the impressive estates of the super-wealthy in leafy tree-lined roads and vineyards. The Southern Suburbs is made up of Woodstock, Salt River, Observatory, Mowbray, Rosebank, Rondebosch, Newlands, Claremont, Kenilworth, Wynberg, Bishopscourt, Constantia and Tokai.

CAPE FLATS

This large area is primarily residential and rich in political history – most of the families subjected to forced removals during the apartheid era were relocated here. The Cape Flats is made up of Athlone, Crossroads, Grassy Park, Gugulethu, Khayelitsha, Langa, Lansdowne, Manenberg, Mitchell's Plain, Nyanga and Philippi.

BLAAUWBERG COAST

The Blaauwberg region is one of the fastest-growing areas in the Western Cape and is the gateway to the Cape West Coast. The area encompasses 48km of sandy white beaches, and is best known for its

spectacular views of Table Mountain across Table Bay. Blaauwberg Coast is made up of Paarden Island, Milnerton, Woodbridge Island, Sunset Beach, West Beach, Table View, Bloubergstrand and Melkbosstrand.

NORTHERN SUBURBS

There is a distinct difference between the Northern Suburbs and the Southern Suburbs, and the two are separated by the huge urban metropolis called Century City, a shopping mecca with business and residential components. The area has seen enormous growth and includes GrandWest Casino, a number of wine routes, and the Durbanville Wine Valley. The Northern Suburbs is made up of Century City, Goodwood, Parow, Bellville, Welgemoed, Platteklouf, Tyger Valley, Durbanville and Bellville.

HELDERBERG

The Helderberg basin is one of the most visually dramatic areas in the Cape, with the Hottentots Holland and Helderberg Mountain ranges creating a powerful backdrop against which the valley descends into vineyards, golf estates and onto a coastline swept with warm waters and white, sandy beaches. Helderberg is made up of Gordon's Bay, Somerset West, Strand, Sir Lowry's Pass, Macassar and Lwandle.

From the Airport

Cape Town International Airport is approximately 20km from Cape Town's city centre. From the airport, you can hire a car, take a metered taxi or catch the MyCiti shuttle bus into the city centre.

A metered taxi to the city centre will cost between R300 and R400. Some have flat rates, while others charge by the kilometer, but either way you should agree up front what the fee might be.

The MyCiti shuttle bus costs R53 for adults and R26.50 for children between the ages of four and eleven (children younger than four travel for free). The bus leaves the airport every 20 minutes between 05h10 and 22h00.

For more information about the MyCiti bus routes, phone +27 860 103 089 or visit the MyCiti website.

Travelling by car

You can arrange to hire a car from Cape Town International Airport before you arrive. In addition, a range of car hire companies operate within the Cape Town city centre. Our road infrastructure is excellent and road signs are of the highest international standards.

If you are planning to drive to Cape Town from somewhere else in South Africa, there are three arterial routes leading into Cape Town from the interior:

- The N1 from Johannesburg via the Karoo and the Cape Winelands;
- The N2 from the Garden Route and Overberg via Somerset West and Cape Town International Airport; and
- The N7 from the West Coast and Namibia.

We drive on the left-hand side of the road, and our cars – rental cars included – are right-hand drive vehicles. All distances, speed limits (and speedometers) are in kilometres. Wearing of seat belts is required by law, while using hand-held phones while driving is against the law.

The general speed limit on major routes is 120km/h (75mph), on secondary roads it is 100km/h (60mph), and in built-up areas it is usually 60km/h (35mph) unless otherwise indicated.

Any valid driver's licence is accepted, provided it bears the photograph and signature of the holder and is printed in English.

Travelling by Bus

Tours

One of the best ways to see Cape Town's landmarks, especially if you have limited time, is to make use of the City Sightseeing Bus, which has three routes to choose from – a city tour, mini-peninsula tour and a wine tour.

These tours are set up so that you can get off at various points and choose how much time you want to spend there before catching the next bus. While in transit, you can listen to recorded commentary in six different languages, providing interesting information about the landmarks along the way.

For more information, contact Cape Town Tourism on +27 21 487 6800 or email info@capetown.travel

Commuting

To commute around the city centre and out to Table View, you can catch the MyCiti bus from various points. Please note that you will need to purchase a 'myconnect' bus card from the main station at the Civic Centre in Hertzog Boulevard. The card costs R22 and you will need to load it with travel credit. Journeys within the city centre feeder route cost R5 and travel between the city centre and Table View is R10 each way.

Travelling by Rail

While the railway system in Cape Town is mainly focused on commuter transport, The Southern Line Rail Route, which stretches from Cape Town to Simon's Town, is highly recommended for visitors. The train stops at several beautiful suburbs and coastal villages along the way and is an affordable option.

The Southern Line Rail Route passes through Cape Town's leafy southern suburbs, which is home to the Newlands rugby and cricket stadiums, as well as the acclaimed Cavendish Square shopping centre.

Train travel does not always run on schedule, so it's important to bear this in mind when planning a day out. As with train travel in most parts of the world, it is also important to be aware of potential pickpockets.

For more information, phone Cape Town Tourism on +27 21 487 6800 or email info@capetown.travel.

For more information about train travel in Cape Town, visit the [Metrorail website](#).

Climate

Cape Town has a climate similar to that of California and the Mediterranean. Winter starts in May and ends in September and is generally a wet and windy season. Temperatures are cool and end to range between 7°C (45°F) and 17°C (63°F). Summer lasts from November to March and temperatures range between 19°C (66°F) and 35°C (95°F). The summer season is usually hot and sunny. It can be windy, but it doesn't bring much rain.

The average summer temperature in Cape Town is 24.3 degrees Centigrade, with January and February temperatures averaging 26 degrees Centigrade. February is the driest month of the year, with 15 mm (0.6 inches) of rain.

Spring and Autumn

Spring (September/October) and Autumn (April/May) are smart times to visit Cape Town as they are usually in-between seasons, when nature is at its showiest.

Winter

While Cape Town's winters (June to August) can be stormy, they often produce perfectly temperate days, when you will find Capetonians gathered around fireplaces and dinner tables. June is the wettest month of the year, with 108 mm (4.3 inches) of rain. The average temperature during Cape Town's winter season is between 7 and 20 degrees Centigrade. It's not uncommon, however, to enjoy a week of sunshine and temperatures ranging between 21 and 26 degrees Celsius and there are never any frosty mornings.

Temperatures

Average summer temperature: 24.3 °C

Average winter temperature: 18.5 °C

Sunshine

Average daily sunshine hours: Between 7.5 and 9.5 hours (London = 3.8 hours; New York = 6.9 hours)

Get outdoors and enjoy Cape Town's great weather

Keeping in touch

Some useful information about communications in Cape Town:

- Roaming mobile network services are available in South Africa.
- If you wish to join a South African mobile network, you can buy or hire a cell phone at the airport or at most of the major shopping centres.
- Blue public phones operate on coins (50c, R1 and R5 coins are best), while green public phones operate with local Telkom phone cards, which you can purchase in a variety of shops and post offices. Most public phones advertise the closest sale point.
- Local couriers can help you ship your purchases home and deal with formalities.
- Postage stamps are available at Post Offices, as well as at some Cape Town Tourism Visitor Information Centres.
- Internet café charges are reasonable. You will find internet café facilities at some Cape Town Tourism Visitor Information Centres.
- Many hotels and accommodation establishments have wireless internet connections.

Money

The currency is the rand (ZAR). The South African exchange rate is favourable to most currencies, including the pound, euro and dollar. Most restaurants, shops and hotels accept international credit cards. Value added tax, or VAT, is 14% and is included in the price of all items, but can be claimed by foreign visitors when leaving the country.

- The local currency is the South African rand. Foreign exchange facilities are widely available and can be found at the V&A Waterfront, Cape Town International Airport and at bureaux de change in various major shopping centres.
- Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) accept most international bank and credit cards.
- South Africa has a modern and sophisticated banking and commercial system, and most shops and hotels accept all major credit cards.
- VAT: South Africa has a Value Added Tax system of 14% on purchases and services. Foreign visitors can reclaim VAT on collective purchases of more than R250. VAT Refund Offices can be found at: Ground level, International Departures, Cape Town International Airport Tel: + 27 21 934 8675. Ground Floor, Clock Tower Shopping Centre, V&A Waterfront.

Tipping

- A 10% tip is standard in restaurants. Tables of over eight people often have an automatic service charge added to the bill. A tip of R5 to R10 per piece of luggage is acceptable for porters in hotels and at airports. In some shopping areas, uniformed attendants will either take a fee or offer to mind your car for a tip.
- It is not obligatory to tip an informal 'car guard' for services rendered. If you choose to tip, that is permissible, but informal guards are not allowed to ask for money, either before or after the service is supplied. A tip of R1 to R5 is acceptable.
- When parking in metered bays in the CBD (Central Business District), parking marshals wearing luminous bibs will approach you and ask you how long you intend to stay. You can pay by the half-hour in advance, and pay the balance upon your return if necessary. Ignoring the marshal is a popular local pastime, but, then again, so is imposing fines on motorists.

Language

While the most commonly spoken language in Cape Town is Afrikaans, English is most commonly understood.

But, as English is only one of South Africa's 11 official languages, a strong vernacular has developed, and English-speaking visitors might have a hard time recognising some of the words. We're a friendly bunch in Cape Town, so if you're totally confused, just ask and we'll have you speaking South African "now now"!

Here are some local phrases to get you started:

ENGLISH	AFRIKAANS	isiXHOSA
Cape Town	Kaapstad	eKapa
Good morning	Goeie môre	Molo/Molweni (pl.)
Goodbye	Totsiens	Hambe kahle
Thank you	Dankie	Enkosi
Yes	Ja	Ewe
No	Nee	Hayi
How much?	Hoeveel?	Yimalini le?
Expensive	Duur	iDhulu
Hot	Warm	Shushu
Cold	Koud	Banda
Friend	Vriend	Umhlobo
Good/OK	Lekker	Kulungile
Excuse me	Skuus	Uxolo
How are you?	Hoe gaan dit?	Uphilile?

Health and Safety

When visiting any major city, visitors should take certain health and safety precautions. Ours is no different. To make your visit as enjoyable as possible, here are some basic tips:

Health tips

- High-quality tap (faucet) water is available across the city and it is both palatable and safe to drink straight from the tap.
- The quality of the food is excellent, and Cape Town has some of the top restaurants in the world.
- Medical facilities in Cape Town are world-class. There is an excellent network of both state and private hospitals.
- We have a warm sunny climate and you should wear sunscreen and a hat whenever you are out of doors during the day, particularly between 10am and 4pm.
- If you're an adult, you won't need any inoculations unless you're travelling from a yellow-fever endemic area (the yellow fever belt of Africa or South America), in which case you will need certification to prove your inoculation status when you arrive in the country.
- Hepatitis B inoculations are recommended for children up to the age of 12 who have not completed the series of injections as infants.
- Cape Town is not a malaria area.

Security tips

- Heed the advice of your hosts or locals on where to go after dark. Try not to walk alone.
- Do not allow strangers to assist you in any way at ATMs.
- Street children and beggars may approach you for a handout. Many social workers counsel against giving money to the children as it usually gets handed over to an older person or is used to purchase drugs.
- At night, park in a secure, well-lit area.
- Avoid carrying large sums of cash, carrying cameras or video cameras in plain sight
- To report any safety incident, phone the following numbers:
 - All emergencies from your cell phone – 112
 - All emergencies from a landline – 107
 - South African Police Services (SAPS) – 10111

Shopping and business hours

- Most shops and businesses are open between 09h00 and 17h00 on weekdays and on Saturdays until 13h00.
- Major malls tend to stay open later: up to 21h00 during the week, on weekends and on most public holidays.
- Government agencies keep to limited weekday only hours, often closing around 15h00.
- Most banks close at 15h30 weekdays, but are open on Saturday mornings (from around 09h00 to 11h00).
- Muslim-owned businesses close between noon and 13h00 on Fridays.
- Most stores, cinemas and restaurants are open on most public holidays. The exceptions are Christmas Day, December 25 and New Year's Day, January 1.

Things to do in Cape Town

A DAY WITH THE FAMILY

Cape Town is the ideal destination for kids: there's plenty to do, whether you decide on playing ball on one of our many pristine beaches, visiting Simon's Town to see the penguins, or walking in Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. The trick is to enjoy each outing to the full, rather than packing too much into a day.

GOLFING IN CAPE TOWN

Think golf and South Africa and your first thoughts will probably be of one of the country's many well known championship courses like the Gary Player Golf Course at Sun City, Fancourt or Pezula. But Cape Town itself has several highly-rated courses for golfers looking to test their skills without leaving the Mother City's 02 dial code.

CAPE TOWN'S TOP FIVE CUISINES

Cape Town's diverse multi-cultural ancestry has enjoyed the influence of many cooking traditions - Italian, Malay, Chinese, Japanese, Moroccan, French, Portuguese, Congolese, Greek, Brazilian, Thai and Korean. Cape Town is renowned for its diverse, stylish restaurants and excellent food, always complemented by the range of superb local wines grown nearby.

BEER IN CAPE TOWN

Never mind wine, there's beer in Cape Town.

Given the region's well-deserved reputation for fine wine, visitors might be surprised to discover that the Western Cape is also awash with beer. And not just big-name brands like Castle Lager (produced by the mega-brewery SABMiller): Cape Town is also home to a busy industry of smaller-scale craft beers.

TOP FIVE CAPE TOWN WINE ROUTES

Less than an hour's drive from Cape Town's city centre, the wine routes offer visitors picturesque scenery, friendly hospitality and excellent wines. Most estates have daily wine tasting, cellar tours and sales – some by appointment only – and there are many choices when it comes to wine route tours. And because wine and food belong together, some of the world's best restaurants can be found in the Cape Winelands.

A CULTURAL DAY

Cape Town is a city bursting at the seams with colour, creativity and humour. You only need walk past the flower sellers of Adderley Street to get a taste of the zest for life that permeates the city. The Cape Minstrel Carnival, affectionately known as Cape Town's answer to the Mardi Gras, is another wonderful example of the City's creative spirit.

HISTORIC CAPE TOWN

Cape Town has a history of many intertwining threads and layers both shady and bright, from the city's cosmopolitan trade roots under Dutch, and then British, rule, followed by the troubled history of the apartheid years.

NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITIES

Cape Town has an abundance of fauna and flora in close proximity to its urban areas. As a pioneering city, the Mother City asks that visitors to these attractions act responsibly. Concerns about global warming and the destruction of the environment have created a need for responsible tourism to ensure that travel remains economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

CAPE TOWN'S TOP FIVE REST AND RELAXATION ACTIVITIES

Thanks to our somewhat notorious south-easterly wind called the "Cape Doctor", we have excellent clean air. A walk on any of Cape Town's beaches or promenades is an opportunity to fill your lungs and invigorate your mind. Stroll through any one of the Peninsula's many forests or fragrant fynbos contour paths and put things back into perspective.

BEYOND CAPE TOWN: DISCOVER THE WINELANDS, WEST COAST AND GARDEN ROUTE

It's hard to leave the sights and beaches of our beautiful city. Nevertheless a trip to the spectacular Winelands for a day or two is not to be missed, with at least six wine routes besides the historical towns of Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Paarl to explore.

TABLE MOUNTAIN: A NEW 7 WONDER OF NATURE

Table Mountain might be one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature, but its wonders are not new to Capetonians, who have been enjoying the majestic mountain's unique beauty for centuries. Likewise, there aren't many visitors to the city who don't get to the top, whether on foot or on the Cableway.

CAPE TOWN'S TOP FIVE OUTDOOR & ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

An active and outdoor lifestyle is part of the Cape Town mindset, and where the elements take centre stage. The oceans are the perfect place to cool off in the hot summer months, while winter surf conditions are perfect for kite-surfing, wind-surfing, board-surfing and even extreme wave surfing. Add to this a range of adrenalin pursuits like paragliding, abseiling, helicopter flips and sky-diving and no season is likely to be spent under the duvet or in the hammock.

CAPE TOWN'S TOP FIVE CULTURE AND HERITAGE ACTIVITIES

Cape Town prides itself on its religious freedom and tolerance. As the meeting point of many cultures, there are mosques, kramats, churches, synagogues and temples to see, especially in the city centre, adjacent Bo-Kaap area, and throughout the Peninsula. Guided tours are available to places of interest and faith, but you can also visit these places independently.

50 Interesting Facts about South Africa

Information sourced at <http://www.larktours.com/50-interesting-facts-about-south-africa>

1. Table Mountain in Cape Town is believed to be one of the oldest mountains in the world.
2. The world is divided into six floral kingdoms. All these kingdoms encompass several countries, and in some cases, several continents. South Africa, which has a floral kingdom wholly contained within the country, is the one exception. The Cape Floral Kingdom has 9,600 plant species, 70% of which are not found anywhere else in the world.
3. Table Mountain alone has over 1,500 species of plants, more than the entire United Kingdom.
4. South Africa is the second largest exporter of fruit in the world.
5. South Africa has the longest wine route in the world.
6. Kruger National Park supports the greatest variety of wildlife species on the African continent.
7. South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique are tearing down fences between the countries' game parks to create a 13,500 square mile game park, which will become the largest conservation area in the world. It will be bigger than Switzerland, Belgium or Taiwan.
8. South Africa has a penguin colony, which thrives thanks to the cold Antarctic currents on the west coast near the Cape.
9. South Africa is rated 3rd in the world in supplying safe, drinkable tap water.
10. The Palace of the Lost City resort hotel is the largest theme resort hotel in the world as well as the largest building project undertaken in the southern hemisphere.
11. Walt Disney serves South African wine exclusively at its 73-acre Animal Kingdom Lodge in the United States.
12. South Africa has the cheapest electricity in the world.
13. The deepest mine is a gold mine in South Africa. In 1977 the Western Deep Levels Mine reached a depth of 11,749 feet. Most mines descend to about 3,300 feet.
14. South Africa is the only country in the world to voluntarily abandon its nuclear weapons program.
15. South Africa has 19,004 miles of railway track - 80% of Africa's rail infrastructure.
16. South Africa generates two-thirds of Africa's electricity.
17. The Tugela Falls is the second highest waterfall in the world, where the water tumbles down 2,789 feet. First place goes to the Angel Falls in Venezuela at 3,212 feet.
18. Blyde River Canyon is the third largest canyon in the world - and the largest green one. The Grand Canyon in the U.S. is the biggest, and the Fish River Canyon in Namibia the second, but both are very dry.
19. South Africa is home to the world's smallest succulent plants (less than 0.39 inches) and the largest (the baobab tree).
20. Kimberley may have the biggest man-made hole in the world, but did you know that the southern Free State town of Jagersfontein has the deepest vertical man-made hole?
21. The only street in the world to house two Nobel Peace prizewinners is in Soweto. Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu both have houses on Vilakazi Street in Soweto.
22. South Africa is the world's largest producer of macadamia nuts.
23. South Africa has the third highest level of biodiversity in the world.
24. South Africa is the world's leader in mining and minerals. It has nearly 90% of the platinum metals on earth, 80% of the manganese, 73% of the chrome, 45% of the vanadium and 41% of the gold.
25. South Africa was the first country in Africa to host the prestigious FIFA World Cup.
26. South Africa has the oldest meteor scar in the world, just across the Vaal River near Parys, called the Vredefort Dome. This is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
27. South African grasslands have approximately 30 species per square kilometer, greater than the biodiversity of rainforests.
28. South Africa is the sole producer of the Mercedes Benz C Class, right-hand drive vehicles.
29. General Motors South Africa will be the only manufacturing site outside of the United States to build the Hummer H3 vehicle.
30. South Africa is one of the most generously endowed geographic solar hotspots in the world, soaking up just over half of the world's highest category of solar wattage per square yard of land.
31. South Africa has deserts, mountains, escarpments, plateaus, grasslands, bush, wetlands and subtropical forests.
32. Most of the world's proto-mammalian fossils are found in the Karoo region.

33. Dr. Christiaan Barnard, at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, performed the first human heart transplant in the world in 1967. He was also the first to do a "piggyback" transplant in 1971, and he was the first to do a heart-lung transplant.
34. The vast majority of South African coal exports are shipped through the Richards Bay Coal Terminal (RBCT). With the capacity to export 79.4 mmst annually, RBCT is the world's largest coal export facility.
35. The world's largest diamond was the Cullinan Diamond, found in South Africa in 1905. It weighed 3,106.75 carats uncut. It was cut into the Great Star of Africa, weighing 530.2 carats, the Lesser Star of Africa, which weighs 317.40 carats, and 104 other diamonds of nearly flawless color and clarity. They now form part of the British crown jewels.
36. There are about 280,000 windmills on farms across South Africa, second in number only to Australia.
37. Three of the five fastest land animals live in South Africa - the cheetah (63 miles per hour), the wildebeest, and the lion.
38. The oldest remains of modern humans were found in Klasies River Cave in the Eastern Cape. They are well over 100,000 years old.
39. In eastern South Africa, scientists have found traces of blue-green algae dating back 3,500 million years. This is some of the earliest evidence of life on Earth.
40. There are more than 2,000 shipwrecks, dating back at least 500 years, off the South African coast. More than one of these, including the Waratah, simply vanished without a trace.
41. The Karoo region is home to some of the best fossils of early dinosaurs.
42. Although Pretoria is considered to be the capital of South Africa, the country actually has three capitals: Pretoria (executive), Cape Town (legislative), and Bloemfontein (judicial).
43. In its eastern part, South Africa entirely surrounds another country - Lesotho, an independent constitutional monarchy.
44. Approximately 900 bird species are found in South Africa alone, which represents 10% of the world's total bird species.
45. South Africa has the most luxurious train in the world, The Rovos Rail.
46. South Africa has the highest commercial bungi jump in the world (710 feet).
47. Mossel Bay is in the Guinness Book of records as having the second most moderate climate in the world.
48. Pietermaritzburg's city hall is the largest red brick building in the Southern Hemisphere.
49. Hippos are susceptible to sunburn, and spend most of their days with just their noses out of water. Their noses have special flaps that close when submerged, and they can stay under water for 25 minutes.
50. South Africa has the oldest wine industry outside of Europe and the Mediterranean, featuring Chardonnays, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Cinsault, Riesling, Shiraz, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinotage varieties.