

The International Society for Plant Molecular Farming



Why Cape Town

Cape Town, situated at the southern tip of Africa, embodies an undeniable allure rooted in its diverse natural beauty, historical significance, and vibrant culture. The city is graced by the iconic Table Mountain, a symbol of its majesty, offering awe-inspiring views of the metropolis and the surrounding ocean. Its coastlines, where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans converge, boast stunning beaches, rugged cliffs, and panoramic vistas.

The nearby Cape Winelands are a tapestry of picturesque landscapes adorned with world-renowned vineyards. Beyond its natural splendor, Cape Town stands as a testament to resilience, notably seen in sites like the Apartheid Museum and Robben Island, pivotal in narrating South Africa's tumultuous history and its journey to freedom.

The vibrant neighborhood of Bo-Kaap, with its colorful houses and Cape Malay heritage, showcases the city's multicultural essence. Cape Town's architecture reflects a fascinating blend of historical Dutch and British colonial buildings, intertwining with modern designs. This blend mirrors the cultural diversity that defines the city, a fusion of African, European, Asian, and other influences that manifest in its cuisine, festivals, and arts, creating a tapestry of experiences.

Moreover, Cape Town is a hub of adventure and innovation, offering a playground for outdoor enthusiasts and serving as a burgeoning center for tech start-ups and entrepreneurship in Africa. The city's tourism plays a vital role in its economy, with visitors contributing significantly through accommodations, dining, shopping, and attractions, propelling its growth. Cape Town's commitment to sustainability is reflected in its various community projects and responsible tourism initiatives. With easy accessibility through Cape Town International Airport, the city beckons global attendees to partake in not just a conference but a captivating exploration of a city teeming with wonder and significance.

Safety

Cape Town, situated at the southern tip of Africa, is a captivating destination with a mix of safety considerations. The city is endowed with diverse natural beauty, historical significance, and a vibrant culture that beckons tourists from around the world. Iconic landmarks like Table Mountain offer breathtaking views of the city and its surroundings, making it a must-visit. While exploring the city, especially in popular tourist areas and the central business district (CBD), exercising general caution is recommended, particularly regarding pickpocketing and petty theft. Opt for guided tours when exploring lesser-known areas, like townships, to ensure a safer experience. It's essential to take standard safety precautions, such as securing belongings and being mindful of your surroundings. Stay informed about the local safety situation and heed advice from locals and reputable sources to have an enjoyable and secure visit to this vibrant city.

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Transport

Transportation in Cape Town, South Africa, is well-developed and offers various options for getting around the city and exploring its diverse attractions.

Public Transportation:

MyCiTi Bus Service: The MyCiTi bus system is a popular and efficient public transportation option in Cape Town. It connects major areas of the city and operates on a scheduled route system, making it easy to navigate.

For more information: www.myciti.org.za

Metrorail: Metrorail provides train services in and around Cape Town, connecting the city with suburban areas. It's a cost-effective mode of transport, particularly for traveling longer distances.

For more information: www.capetown.gov.za

Taxis and Ridesharing:

Metered Taxis: Metered taxis are available throughout the city and are a convenient choice for point-to-point travel. They can be hailed on the street or booked in advance.

Ridesharing Apps: Services like Uber and Bolt (Taxify) operate in Cape Town, providing a reliable and often cost-effective means of transportation. Users can book a ride using a smartphone app.

Car Rentals:

Car Hire Agencies: Numerous car rental agencies operate in Cape Town, offering a range of vehicles to suit different needs and budgets. Renting a car provides flexibility for exploring the city and its surrounding areas at your own pace.

Avis: <https://www.avis.co.za/>

Rental Cars: www.rentalcars.com

Hertz Car Rental: www.hertz.co.za

Bicycle Rentals:

Bike Rentals: Cape Town has become more bicycle-friendly, and renting a bicycle can be a great way to explore the city, especially along the scenic routes. Several rental services provide bicycles for various durations.

Up Cycles: <https://upcycles.co.za/>

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Walking:

Walking Tours: Cape Town's city centre and tourist areas are pedestrian-friendly, making walking a popular option for exploring key attractions, historic sites, and local markets.

Minibus Taxis:

Informal Minibus Taxis: Minibus taxis are a common mode of transport, particularly for shorter distances within the city and suburbs. However, they may be less regulated and might not be the best choice for tourists unfamiliar with the routes and system.

Cape Town's transport options cater to various preferences, allowing visitors to explore the city and its attractions efficiently. Depending on your itinerary and comfort level, you can choose the mode of transportation that best suits your needs.

Tourist Attractions

Cape Town, often referred to as the "Mother City," is renowned for its stunning landscapes, rich history, diverse culture, and numerous attractions. Here are some of the main attractions you should consider visiting while in Cape Town:

Table Mountain: A symbol of Cape Town, Table Mountain offers panoramic views of the city, ocean, and surrounding landscapes. Visitors can hike or take a cable car to the top.

For more information: <https://www.tablemountain.net/>

Robben Island: Known for its historical significance, Robben Island was a prison where Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners were held during apartheid. Guided tours offer insights into South Africa's struggle for freedom.

For more information: <https://www.robben-island.org.za/>

V&A Waterfront: A vibrant waterfront area with a mix of shops, restaurants, entertainment venues, and the Two Oceans Aquarium. It's a popular destination for shopping, dining, and leisure activities.

For more information: www.waterfront.co.za

Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden: One of the most beautiful botanical gardens in the world, showcasing South Africa's diverse plant life. It's perfect for a leisurely stroll or a picnic.

For more information: <https://www.sanbi.org/gardens/kirstenbosch/>

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Cape Point and Cape of Good Hope: The Cape of Good Hope is a historic landmark and part of Table Mountain National Park, offering stunning views and hiking opportunities. Cape Point is known for its rugged cliffs and lighthouse.

For more information: <https://capepoint.co.za/>

Boulders Beach: Famous for its colony of African penguins, visitors can get up close to these charming creatures in their natural habitat.

For more information: <https://www.capetown.travel/get-to-know-the-african-penguins-at-boulders-beach/>

Bo-Kaap: A vibrant and colorful neighborhood with cobbled streets, Bo-Kaap is known for its Cape Malay culture and heritage. It's a great place to experience the local cuisine and learn about the area's history.

For more information: <https://www.capetown.travel/getting-to-know-the-bo-kaap/>

Castle of Good Hope: A historic fortress and the oldest surviving building in South Africa, offering guided tours and a glimpse into Cape Town's colonial past.

For more information: <https://castleofgoodhope.co.za/>

District Six Museum: A poignant museum dedicated to preserving the memory of the forced removals and destruction of a once-vibrant multicultural community during apartheid.

For more information: <https://www.districtsix.co.za/>

Chapman's Peak Drive: A scenic drive along the Atlantic coast, renowned for its breathtaking views and photo opportunities.

For more information: <https://www.chapmanspeakdrive.co.za/>

Hout Bay: A charming coastal town known for its fishing industry, scenic beauty, and the opportunity to visit a nearby seal colony.

For more information: <https://www.capetown.travel/travel-like-a-local-your-neighbourhood-guide-to-hout-bay/>

Constantia Wine Route: Explore the historic Constantia Valley, one of the oldest wine-producing areas in South Africa and enjoy wine tastings at the local vineyards.

For more information: <https://constantiawineroute.com/>

These attractions offer a diverse and enriching experience, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in Cape Town's natural beauty, history, and cultural heritage.