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Quick Guide To Cape Town

By Chic Retreats

Cape Town has emerged as a city for romantics, adventurers, explorers and families alike. The city now boasts a number of exquisite boutique hotels from where you can enjoy everything Cape Town has to offer.

Where is it?

Cape Town sits on the south west corner of South Africa, where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet. It has its own airport and visitors are never short of entertainment or excitement.

Where can I stay?

Cape Town's growth into one of the most energetic cities in the world has been matched by the quality of the hotels. In particular, there has been a boom in boutique hotels - designed to catch the attention of the discerning traveller. These hotels provide well-designed and thought-out rooms and public areas and levels of service that anticipate guests' every need. This new style of hotel includes Atlantic House, which occupies an enviable position in the trendy resort of Camps Bay, the Kensington Palace, a minimalist delight with just eight rooms, set right in the heart of the city, and The Bishops Court, which supplies spacious rooms, a pool and floodlit tennis court and fabulous views of the surrounding landscape.

What can I see?

Cape Town has something for everyone. Whether you're looking for designer shopping, water adventure, mountain treks, wine tasting tours or even safari trips, you can find it in Cape Town. With an enviable climate and the domineering presence of Table Mountain, Cape Town manages to combine stunning landscapes with urban chic, catering to a wide range of visitors. For those who lack the energy but want the view, take a cable car to the top of Table Mountain, where you get fantastic views of the city below and the ocean beyond. Robben Island is notorious for being the home of Nelson Mandela during his years of imprisonment and is now just half an hour away by boat and has been transformed into a living museum. If you want to damage your credit card, visit the V&A Waterfront,

home to designer shops, cinemas, restaurants and craft markets surrounding a working harbour.

How do I get around?

Cape Town is fairly easy to drive around - cars drive on the left here - and car hire is reasonable. If you want to explore the Western Cape then it's a good idea to hire a car so that you are in control of your day. Trains and buses link all the major cities in South Africa and there are long-haul bus services as well if you're planning a few days somewhere different. You can also rent a bike to travel round the city or use local taxis.

Chic Retreats is a collection of small, sophisticated hotels around the world that are designed to give the traveller a real taste of luxury and service. Visit their website by clicking

<http://www.chicretreats.com>

A Visitors Guide To Cape Town South Africa

By Thomas Smith

For those people who are looking for a trip of a lifetime; consider Cape Town, South Africa. It is a truly gorgeous place and one that you will not see on an average vacation.

Think about where Cape Town is located. There is a barrier of mountains that separates Cape Town from the other parts of South Africa. It is also a city of contrasts, old oak trees, streets made from cobblestones, and buildings built in a British-Georgian style. In the valleys, grapes are grown as well as wheat and fruit.

Cape Town, South Africa is a very historic city. It is also a cultural and racial melting pot. One of the best places to get started then is the South African Museum. Here you can begin to puzzle out the cultural side of Cape Town. The South African Museum is the oldest museum in the country and is located in Cape Towns Companys Gardens which is at the top of Adderley Street. You will find a wide variety of natural history and cultural displays. There is also a neighboring planetarium where you can see the main features of the southern hemisphere night sky.

The Companys Gardens were designed at first under the instruction of the Dutch East India Company as a way to provide a midway station for ships traveling to the East. Grapes, turnips, cabbages, grains and potatoes were planted to help alleviate health problems incurred by the sailors. You will also be able to view some of the grand buildings in the Gardens. Inside the buildings you can see museum exhibits and the Anglican St. Georges Cathedral.

In the same area is the office of South Africas State President and the Houses of Parliament. At the southernmost tip of Government Avenue is the citys best known hotel, the Mount Nelson, which sits in the shadow of Table Mountain. This hotel has a grand colonial atmosphere and still serves a delicious and elegant afternoon tea.

Quick Guide To Cape Town

Be sure to make a trip to Adderley Street. The oldest church in South Africa is located here close to the harbor. Grootte Kerk is the name of the church and it has a particularly lovely carved pulpit. The statues of Jan van Riebeeck and his wife are on display here. The Castle of Good Hope is not far from the church and it is the oldest building still standing in the country.

A special part of Cape Town is Greenmarket Square. It is a good place to shop if you like a flea market atmosphere and shopping opportunities. You can take a look at The Old Town House which is a wonderful baroque structure that was built in 1761. Here you can see the Michaelis Collection of Dutch and Flemish art. You can also shop at pawnshops and boutiques that have their businesses in very attractive Victorian buildings.

There are many museums and galleries in Cape Town. Most of them operate under the umbrella of Iziko Museums of Cape Town. The museums offer diverse exhibitions in lovely settings. You can even tour a collection of old city houses that have been restored.

Visit Cape Town, South Africa for a trip you will always remember.

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