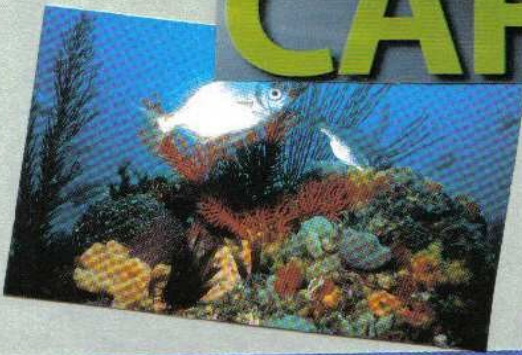


CAPE TOWN





History and Changes in Cape Town

Table Bay was visited by the Portuguese in the 15th century. In 1652 the Dutch East India Company founded a station there to supply ships rounding the cape. The colony grew and soon spread far beyond the cape peninsula. The importation of slaves from East Africa increased the population. During the French Revolution the British force occupied the cape in 1795. The treatment of the slaves was very harsh and there were slave revolts on the outskirts of town in 1808 and 1825. The slaves were freed in 1834. Major road and railway construction was under way by 1859. The discovery of diamonds in 1840 and gold in 1886 brought lots of people to the town. Cape Town became part of the Union of South Africa when it was created in 1910. South Africa enacted laws enforcing the apartheid system, which discriminated against the countries nonwhite majority, beginning in 1950. Under the country's Group Areas Act of 1966, the nonwhite citizens of Cape Town were forced to live in separate sections of the city or on its outskirts, according to their social classifications. After South Africa repealed the apartheid laws in the early 1990s, Cape Town again elected its leaders through majority rule. In 1998, in an attempt to better serve residents of all races, the city extended its municipal borders and began to restructure its government and all its services.

CAPE TOWN

Cape Town is one of the largest cities in South Africa, it has a major seaport and is the capital city of the Western Cape. Cape Town lies at the northern end of the Cape Peninsula, north of the Cape of Good Hope and is located at the extreme south western portion of South Africa, on the continent's southern tip. It is located in one of the world's most beautiful natural settings for city life. Parts of the city and its suburbs wind about the steep slopes of Table Mountain. The oldest section lies in the area between the slopes of Table Bay and the mountain and its outlying ridges known as Lion's Head. The city has a Mediterranean climate, with mild winters and warm summers.

The 145 km Peninsula coastline has many good places for swimming, fishing and skin diving. Yachting is also a popular thing to do in the Cape beaches. Cricket and rugby are very popular and are played at the grounds at Newlands. Cape Town is home to the national library, several museums, two symphony orchestras and theatres for concerts, opera, ballet and plays. Diocesan College and the universities of Cape Town and of the Western Cape are the main institutions of higher learning. Cape Town is one of South Africa's chief centers of industry. A petroleum refinery and chemical, fertilizer, cement and automobile-assembly factories are located in the metropolitan area. Among the city's major industries are ship repair and maintenance, textile and clothing manufacture, food processing, construction and tourism. Many nationwide businesses have their headquarters in Cape Town. The port of Cape Town has an excellent harbour and good repair and day-dock facilities for ocean passing ships. The Cape Town International Airport, the major airport in the whole of the Western Cape Province, handles both domestic and international flights in the country. A railway system extends northward from Cape Town to Zimbabwe and beyond to other countries. Commuter trains, buses, minibuses, taxis and other transport provide local transportation. There is also an extensive highway system. Cape Town functions under a council government system. Each of the city's 100 wards elects a councillor to represent it. An additional 100 councillors are elected on the basis of proportional representation. An executive committee chaired by the mayor, leads the council. Among the first residents of Cape Town were the San and Khoikhoi people. Cape Town is known as South Africa's "mother city" because it was the site of the first European settlement in the country. Cape Town also boasts a very rich and dreadful history.