


24

HOURS IN...

# CAPE TOWN

*For a tangle of cultures, buzzy nightlife and OMG-worthy scenery, hit the SOUTH AFRICAN beachside city.*

■ FEW PLACES can match Cape Town for natural wonders — a coastline fringed with white sand beaches, lush foothills peppered with world-class vineyards and the stunning Table Mountain as a backdrop. But what makes this city — and country — so compelling is the legacy of apartheid, abolished 22 years ago. People are still working out how to live with each other.

Everyone from taxi drivers to tour guides has an opinion and you'll hear a diverse set of predictions about the future. Not that this has deterred visitors. With its picturesque beach suburbs, a vibrant bar and restaurant scene and a national park at its heart, Cape Town is as beguiling as ever. 

**Right:** The Cape Grace boutique luxury hotel.  
**Far right:** Ryan Reynolds in *Safe House*, a new spy thriller set in the city.

GQ  
INFO

## GETTING THERE

Qantas and South African Airways both fly to Cape Town via Johannesburg.  
[qantas.com.au](http://qantas.com.au)  
[flysaa.com](http://flysaa.com)



## WHERE TO STAY

## CAPE GRACE

Ideally located on a private quay in the V&A Waterfront tourist hub, this boutique luxury hotel combines Philippe Starck modernism with Cape Dutch antiques. While it boasts all the requisite amenities (pool, spa, waterfront whisky bar, amazing restaurant), you'll remember the service the most. Think free chauffeur transfers, staff who know your name and a lemon in the minibar for a sunset G&T. [capegrace.com](http://capegrace.com)



## WHERE TO EAT

## BIZERCA

On the foreshore, Bizerca is a modern take on the classic French bistro. French chef Laurent Deslandes honed his skills at Collits' Inn in Sydney's Blue Mountains (where he collected two chefs hats) before moving here and opening Bizerca in 2007. Expect twists on traditional French dishes such as pork belly with goat cheese-stuffed dates and braised cheek with fingerling potatoes. [bizerca.com](http://bizerca.com)



## WHAT TO SEE

## DISTRICT SIX MUSEUM

Head here to understand the country's tumultuous past better. It charts the city's infamous district from its origins in the late-1800s as a mixed community of freed slaves and immigrants to the forced removal of more than 60,000 people in the '60s and '70s after the apartheid government declared it "whites only" — and flattened their houses. Confronting. [districtsix.co.za](http://districtsix.co.za)



## WHERE TO DRINK

## LONG STREET

This city-centre artery is lined with drinking dens. Start at the wood-floored Neighbourhood, with an impressive beer selection and terrace. Further down is Julep, a small, unpretentious brick-walled bar that serves killer martinis. Finish at the very chic Waiting Room at Royale Eatery, with its balcony of fairy lights, and live DJs. [goodinthehood.co.za](http://goodinthehood.co.za); [julep.co.za](http://julep.co.za); [facebook.com/WaitingRoomCT](http://facebook.com/WaitingRoomCT)



## WHERE TO SHOP

## THE OLD BISCUIT MILL

This converted warehouse is home to a quirky mix of designers, homeware shops and artisanal food producers peddling everything from antique candle holders to fine handmade chocolates. Saturdays see a bustling Neighbourgoods Market with a delicious, calorie-rich range of treats from more than 90 organic food producers. [theoldbiscuitmill.co.za](http://theoldbiscuitmill.co.za)



## WHAT TO CLIMB

## TABLE MOUNTAIN

While a trip up here is a must, only wusses take the cable car. There are hundreds of walking trails that lead to the summit and Skeleton Gorge is one of the most spectacular. It's a strenuous two- to three-hour climb up a relentless set of steps and ladders but you'll have earned the intoxicating view from the top. Join a hike with a knowledgeable guide from Tours & Trails. [toursandtrails.com](http://toursandtrails.com)



## WHEN TO GO

February is arguably the best month to visit, with balmy temperatures and the kids safely back at school. Dec to March is generally warm (average 26°C) and blowy courtesy of a strong south-easterly wind known as the Cape Doctor. April and May are pleasant before things get cold and wet during the winter (June to Aug). Spring (Sept to Nov) can be hit and miss. In terms of sun and rain, think San Francisco but noticeably warmer.