



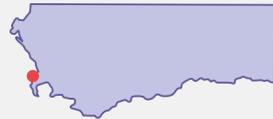
V&A WATERFRONT



Exploring the Coastal Heritage of Victoria & Alfred Waterfront

"There exists a charter agreement between the V&A Waterfront and the City of Cape Town, at the heart of which is a mutually-agreed objective: "To make the V&A Waterfront a very special place for all Capetonians."

Welcome to the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town, South Africa. This world-renowned destination is a hub of excitement, culture and natural beauty. Situated at the foot of the iconic Table Mountain and overlooking the sparkling Atlantic Ocean, the V&A Waterfront is a bustling harbour transformed into a vibrant mixed-use development that seamlessly blends history and modernity. This unique destination offers visitors diverse activities, from world-class shopping and dining to scenic boat cruises and historical tours. With something for everyone, the V&A Waterfront is a must-see destination for any traveller exploring the beautiful city of Cape Town.



The Cape's Stormy Seas and the Harbours that Tamed Them

Portuguese navigator Bartolomeu Dias was the first European to reach the Cape in 1488, while António de Saldanha was the first European to set anchor and come ashore in Table Bay in 1503. But the area's history does not begin and end with them. Its story spans both centuries and cultures. Native tribes, African migrants, European settlers and even ancient Phoenician explorers all have a place in the story of what would become the V&A Waterfront.

Before the arrival of the first Europeans, the Khoisan people had inhabited Table Mountain and its surrounding area for centuries. They referred to the city as //Hui !Gaeb. Their community was a proficient and hardworking one with unparalleled expertise in local fauna and flora. The Khoisan gave Table Mountain its first name, Hoerikwaggo, meaning "Mountain in the sea."

While Saldanha was the first European to set foot in South Africa, it would be Jan van Riebeeck, a Dutch colonist, who would be the first to settle there successfully in 1652. Commissioned by the Dutch East India Company (VOC), Van Riebeeck's task was to establish a

provisioning station for company ships en route from Europe to outposts in Java and Batavia. One of the developments at this colony included the Fort of Good Hope, the settlement's first permanent structure. But it was Van Riebeeck's Jetty, a simple structure made of wood and stone, that would serve as a precursor to a harbour in the area.

Over the next 150 years, the Cape was tossed back and forth between British and Dutch colonial powers. The Dutch controlled the area until 1795, after which British forces seized it during the Napoleonic Wars. It was relinquished to the Dutch again in 1803, only for the British to reclaim the Cape three years later, naming it the Cape of Good Hope. The British remained in power until 1910, when the Cape became part of the Union of South Africa. The city's population tripled under this British rule, and the need for a properly constructed harbour could not be ignored.

The Alfred Basin
Initial attempts at jetties and piers would provide ships with direct access to land, but more would be needed to prevent shipwrecks. In June 1858, more than 30 vessels fell victim to severe winter storms. In response to these incidents, Lloyd's of London refused to insure ships wintering in Table Bay. This would only add to the pressure of constructing a proper harbour, as other bustling ports were cropping up across the African coast. A significant turning point occurred on a bright September 17, 1860, when a young

midshipman, HRH Prince Alfred, the second son of Queen Victoria, ceremoniously initiated the construction of the Breakwater, marking the beginning of the development of Cape Town's inaugural harbour. This would become Alfred's Basin, the first part of Cape Town Harbour.



After 1910 - The pier at the end of Adderley Street
Credit: Carl Momberg, The Waterfront Story

The Victoria Basin
The discovery of gold and diamonds in South Africa necessitated the expansion of the initial harbour section, leading to the construction of the Victoria Basin. This development of the two harbour basins occurred from 1860 to 1920.

The Victoria Basin, an integral part of the Port of Cape Town, underwent significant development following the inauguration of the Duncan Dock in 1870. Subsequent enhancements along the shoreline included the extension of the Breakwater and the construction of piers from 1890 to 1895. The completed sheltered area in 1905 was named the Victoria Basin

in honour of Queen Victoria. The Victoria & Alfred Hotel now occupies one of the principal piers of the original harbour. Initially serving as the gateway to Southern Africa until the mid-1930s, the Victoria Basin accommodates smaller commercial vessels, including fishing and pleasure boats, and smaller passenger cruise ships today.

The Foreshore
Commencing in 1938 and concluding in 1945, the Foreshore project, initially delayed by the Second World War, resulted in creating a 230-hectare Foreshore Land for city expansion.



Credit: V&A Waterfront



Credit: V&A Waterfront



An early photograph of the Robinson Dry Dock, with a ship in for repairs.
Credit: V&A Waterfront



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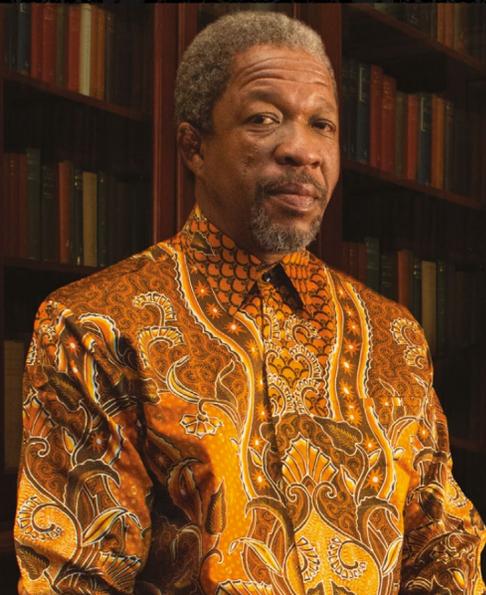
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3. Robinson Dry Dock
4. Chavonnes Battery
5. Lifesaving Equipment
6. Quarry Tunnel
7. Clock Tower
8. Time Ball Tower
9. Breakwater Prisons & Treadmill
10. Union Castle House
11. Iziko SA Maritime Centre
12. Nobel Square
13. Canal Ferry
14. Nelson Mandela Gateway
15. Seal Landing
16. Harbour Cafe Building
17. Ferrymans Tavern/Mitchell's Scottish Ale House
18. Moving Bridges
19. Boat House
20. Victoria & Alfred Hotel
21. Somerset Hospital
22. The Victoria Wharf
23. The Oranjezicht Market
24. Zeitz MOCCA & The Silo
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26. Pet Friendly
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28. The Cape Wheel
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30. The Watershed
31. Pump House
32. Ulundi House
33. Cape Town Cruise Terminal
34. E-berth Passenger Terminal
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HISTORY

From Pier to Waterfront

It fell into disuse during the 1960s and 1970s, placing a considerable barrier between Capetonians and the sea with which they had long shared a deep bond. This would change for the better in 1984, when Mayor Sol Kreiner created the Waterfront Steering Committee with the intention of linking the city back to the sea. In 1988, this vision was realised when the national government established the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront. It would be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Transnet Ltd.

Across six phases, the 123-hectare site would be developed into the mixed-use precinct of today. However, this mammoth undertaking had its setbacks. South Africa's Apartheid policies of the day meant that international investment was not possible. Instead, R205 million in start-up capital was raised from tenants, operators and Transnet itself. This would allow construction of Victoria Wharf to commence, a vital step in ensuring that the

The harbour was not safe from the changing forces of the 20th century. World conflicts, changing economies, and globalisation all contributed to its misfortune.

Waterfront would be profitable. Fast forward to more recent years and the Waterfront was still not rid of uncertainty. The precinct has changed ownership three times, each transition bringing its development victories and challenges. In 2011, the Waterfront was bought by a South African consortium consisting of Growthpoint, the Public Investment Corporation representing the Government Employees' Pension Fund, and a small BEE consortium for R9.7 billion. The current owners have continued to build upon the vision on which the Waterfront was established. One of its many victories has been placing sustainability at the core of its business.

A Sustainable Future

The V&A Waterfront, or V&AW, began its sustainability journey in 2008, taking a holistic approach to sustainability. Its sustainability efforts are spread across environmental, social and governance spheres.

Besides being well on its way to achieving carbon neutrality by 2035, the Waterfront boasts a collection of environmental innovations. The Victoria Wharf shopping complex is Africa's greenest building, primarily due to its abundant natural light. The complex also enjoys greater energy efficiency thanks to its new white roof. To avoid the high energy usage of air conditioning, most quayside buildings use seawater to power their cooling systems. On a general note, the V&AW recycles 27% of its total waste thanks to its waste recovery and recycling centre.

Some of the V&A's many sustainability wins:

- **R38 million invested into energy efficiency**
- **8+ years of reduction in carbon emissions**
- **61% reduction in water consumption**

Sustainability extends far beyond environmental conservation. The V&AW sustainability mandate aligns with the National Development Plan and the UN's Global Goals for Sustainable Development. This plan includes the Waterfront's commitment to Corporate Social Investment, focusing on small

businesses and entrepreneurs. Opportunities are available for young entrepreneurs through kiosks in the Victoria Wharf, the V&A Food Market, and the Oranjezicht Farm Market. The Watershed facility houses 150 small businesses involved in the arts and crafts sector. Many of the performers throughout the Waterfront are empowered through the V&A Waterfront Buskers Program, improving their musical ability and business acumen.

The V&A Community Programme is an agile disaster relief and community support programme. It grants countless once-off requests in partnership with organisations like the SPCA, 67 Blankets, and many others. The Waterfront also offers its staff access to funding for community projects they are passionate about, through the V&A Waterfront Staff Community Project.

The Waterfront has also invested heavily in water recycling and conservation, and its recently completed water recycling plant helps reduce water wastage.

1-Dock House

What was once the home and office of the Harbour Master, when the Harbour consisted only of the Alfred Basin, is now the Dock House Boutique Hotel & Spa.

2-Old Port Captain's Office

This stately Gothic-style building housed the Port Captain during the harbour's significant expansion, and the Cape Province's first telephone line. It is now home to the African Trading Port, one of the finest collections of African art from across the continent.

3-Robinson Dry Dock

The Robinson Dry Dock dates back to 1882. It was built at the request of the Royal Navy and played a vital role in the repair of many ships, something which it continues to do today.

4-Chavonnes Battery

Constructed between 1714 and 1725 and named after the governor of the Cape Colony, Maurits Pasques de Chavonnes, this fortification protected the Cape Colony against naval attacks. The battery has served as a prison and a hospital and is now a museum, charting the structure's rich history. At the time of going to print, it is temporarily closed (03.24).

5-Quarry Tunnel

Across the street from Ferrymans Irish Tavern are two weathered wooden doors: the entrance to a 160-year-old tunnel. Once used as a transport route between the quarry and Breakwater, the Tunnel has been repurposed for all sorts of events, from wine tastings to secret dining clubs.

6-Clock Tower

The establishment of the new harbour in the 19th century meant a new office for the Port Captain had to be constructed. A symbol of the V&AW's dedication to conservation, the red walls are the same colour as in the 1800s, carefully matched to scrapings of the tower's original paint.

7-Time Ball Tower

The tower was built in 1894 and used to communicate the time to shipmasters. This visual expression of time was far more accurate as light travels faster than sound, ensuring that ships off the coast had a precise time on which to base their navigation. The tower operated for 40 years before being recommissioned and restored in 1997. It is still occasionally used today.

8-Breakwater Prisons & Treadmill

Built in 1860, the Breakwater Prison was initially designed to accommodate British convicts constructing the Breakwater, a project crucial for developing the harbour. However, from 1991 onward, the surviving structure has been repurposed to host the Breakwater Lodge and the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business, forming an integral part of the Waterfront. What was once the world's most feared prison has transformed into a place of education and hospitality.

9-Union Castle House

Built in 1919 for Union Castle Mail Steamship Company, the building houses the South African Maritime Museum today. Its exhibitions include the largest collection of model ships in South Africa and the SAS Somerset, a retired Bar-class boom defence vessel.

NOTABLE SITES

10-Iziko SA Maritime Centre

Thanks to the Marsh collection, you can explore the history of shipping in Cape Town through an impressive collection of photographs and artefacts. The centre is also home to the earliest existing models of Table Bay Harbour, built by prisoners and warders of Breakwater Prison.

11-Nobel Square

Here, you will find four bronze statues created by Claudette Shreuders. They are tributes to Chief Albert Luthuli, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, and former presidents FW de Klerk and Nelson Mandela. These men are South Africa's Nobel Peace Laureates, each one a champion in the fight for true democracy for the nation. Noria Mombasa's work can also be found in the square—a sculpture dedicated to women and children and the part they played in achieving peace for South Africa.

12-Canal Ferry

The public gained access to the Roggebaai Canal in June 2009, providing a route for a 20-minute ferry ride that connects the CBD to the Waterfront.

13-Nelson Mandela Gateway

The aptly named departure point for tours of Robben Island. Remember to make bookings for the tour and the 30-minute ferry ride to the island.

14-Seal Landing

Close-ups of seals are unusual as offshore islands are their preferred breeding ground. However, a colony of seals has made this landing their preferred hangout. It can be found behind the Two Oceans Aquarium.

15-Harbour Café Building

The premises of the Waterfront's first restaurant, built on Erf 1. It was once a tea-room, then dubbed the Crow's Nest, and now the world-famous Hildebrand Restaurant. The building was one of Cape Town's first racially segregated buildings.

16-Ferrymans Tavern/ Mitchell's Scottish Ale House

These are two of the first tenants of the V&A Waterfront. The structure dates back to the 1860s. They offer good beer, great food, and plenty of live entertainment. Today, there is the convenience of the Swing Bridge which gives easy access to Ferrymans and Mitchell's Brewery. Decades ago, however, pub-goers had to use a small rowing boat (the Penny Ferry) to get there.

17-Moving Bridges

No walkabout through the Waterfront is complete without setting foot on one of its three movable bridges. The oldest (1882) can be found at the Robinson Graving Dock. The two much younger companions are the pedestrian-friendly Bascule Bridge (1996) and the recently refurbished Swing Bridge (1997/2020).

18-Boat House

Once the workshop of Louw and Halvorsen, world-famous boat-builders, this red corrugated iron building is now home to Cape Union Mart.

19-Victoria & Alfred Hotel

The hotel, named after the Waterfront's namesakes, was originally the North Quay Warehouse. It was restored in 1990 to become the Waterfront's first hotel.

20-Somerset Hospital

This national monument has much historical significance. Nurses trained in the Nightingale System of Nursing were once stationed there. It was the first Hospital in South Africa to train "non-white" nurses. In 2005, it became the country's first distribution centre for anti-retroviral drugs to treat the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

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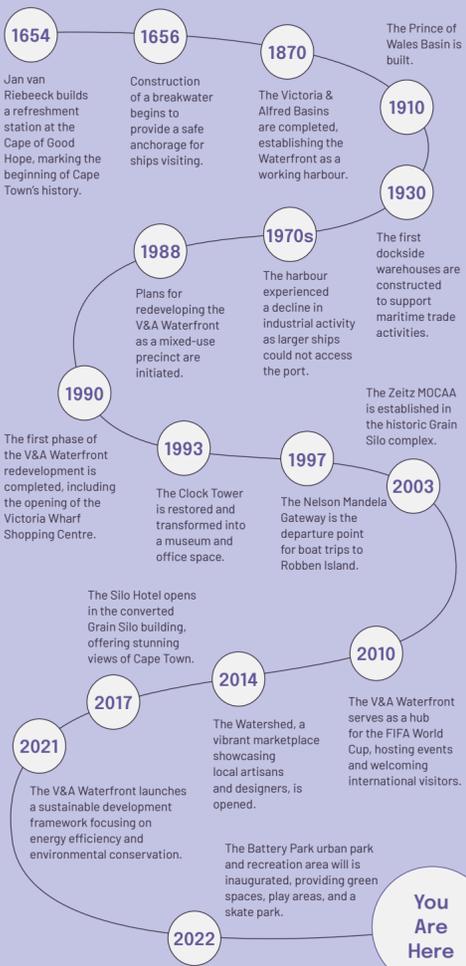
Credit: V&A Waterfront

SHOPPING

21-The Victoria Wharf

The Victoria Wharf is a bustling shopping complex that caters to a wide range of tastes and preferences. With its diverse mix of local and international brands, visitors can explore a vast selection of fashion, accessories, homeware, and more. It has over 450 retail outlets, including renowned global brands and exclusive boutiques. The vibrant atmosphere and stunning waterfront views create an enticing shopping experience that truly captures the essence of Cape Town's vibrant culture.

A Timeline of the Past



ARTS & CULTURE

22-The Oranjezicht Market

This is a haven for food enthusiasts and fresh produce lovers. Located in a charming setting, this bustling market offers a wide array of locally sourced fruits, vegetables, artisanal products, and delectable treats. With its vibrant atmosphere, live music, and diverse culinary offerings, the market is a must-visit destination for those looking to immerse themselves in Cape Town's vibrant food scene.



23-Zeitz MOCAA & The Silo
The Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA) and The Silo form an iconic cultural complex at the V&A Waterfront. The Silo, originally a grain silo dating back to 1921, was reimaged by renowned architect Thomas Heatherwick as a mixed-use space housing The Silo Hotel and the Zeitz MOCAA. The architectural transformation of the building is a testament to innovative design, featuring a spectacular geometric facade of glass windows illuminating the waterfront skyline. Inside The Silo, the Zeitz MOCAA showcases a remarkable collection of contemporary African art, spanning various mediums and reflecting the rich diversity and narratives of the continent. This convergence of history, visionary architecture, and world-class art has made the Zeitz MOCAA and The Silo a must-visit destination, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in the cultural fabric of Cape Town and Africa as a whole.

ADVENTURE

24-Water Activities

The V&A Waterfront in Cape Town offers a variety of water activities for all preferences. Visitors can embark on leisurely boat tours to enjoy panoramic views of Table Mountain and the Atlantic Ocean. For those seeking more thrill, jet ski rentals provide an exhilarating experience, while kayaking allows exploration of the Waterfront's hidden gems.

25-Pet Friendly

The V&A Waterfront welcomes furry companions and provides a fantastic setting for dog walking. Its spacious promenade and scenic views offer an enjoyable and picturesque environment for both dogs and their owners. Whether strolling along the Waterfront or exploring nearby parks, dog walkers can enjoy a leisurely outing while enjoying the beauty of Cape Town's iconic harbour.

26-The Yellow Frame

Positioned against the backdrop of the vibrant Waterfront, this oversized yellow picture frame offers visitors a fun and interactive photo opportunity.

27-The Cape Wheel

The Wheel is a captivating attraction that offers breathtaking views of Cape Town. Rising high above the Waterfront, this Ferris wheel provides a unique perspective of the city, Table Mountain, and the surrounding landscapes. Whether during the day or at night, a ride on the Wheel is an unforgettable experience that allows visitors to soak in the beauty of Cape Town from a new and exhilarating vantage point.



Credit: Cape Town Tourism

ANIMAL SIGHTINGS

The V&A Waterfront occasionally provides delightful animal sightings. Seals are common around the Waterfront, often basking in the sun or playfully swimming near the docks. In addition, seabirds such as seagulls and pelicans can be spotted gracefully gliding through the air or perched on the piers, adding a touch of natural beauty to the bustling urban environment.



MORE

Another critical aspect of the V&A Waterfront's history is its role in the struggle against apartheid. In the 1980s, the harbour was a focal point for anti-apartheid protests, and many of the workers in the area played a critical role in the struggle for democracy. Today, the V&A Waterfront symbolises the progress made since those dark days and reminds us of the importance of standing up for justice and equality.

The V&A Waterfront in Cape Town is more than just a tourist destination - it is a living testament to the city's rich history and culture. From its origins as an active harbour to its transformation into a vibrant mixed-use development, the V&A Waterfront has played a critical role in the growth and development of Cape Town. Today, it continues to be a hub of activity and a must-see destination for anyone visiting this beautiful city.



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