

University of the Western Cape

<http://www.uwc.ac.za/index.htm>

LOCATION OF UWC

UWC is located in Bellville in the Western Cape province of South Africa. Situated in the northern suburbs of the Cape Peninsula, it is 30 minutes' drive from Cape Town, the country's parliamentary capital, and one of the world's most beautiful and scenic cities. It is home to famous landmarks such as Table Mountain, the Cape Peninsula National Park, Kirstenbosch National Gardens and the District Six Museum. Just 10 km from Cape Town harbour lies Robben Island. Now a World Heritage Site, it has become synonymous with the struggle for democracy in South Africa.

Bellville is part of the City of Tygerberg, one of six municipal regions which form part of the broader Cape Metropolitan Council. The others are Cape Town, South Peninsula, Blaauwberg, Helderberg and Oostenberg.

THE FACULTIES (“SCHOOLS”)

UWC has seven faculties, and some 100 departments, schools and units. It offers a varied and cosmopolitan campus community of about 9686 students and a permanent academic staff of 374.

Each faculty has its own web page with detailed information about programmes offered and entrance requirements. For more information on the different faculties or a specific course of study, visit the Faculties and Departments web page. You can also e-mail the relevant Faculty Officer (see contact details).

UWC's eight faculties offer a wide variety of programmes and courses clustered in departments listed below:

Faculty of Arts

Includes Afrikaans, Anthropology, Arabic, Biblical Studies, English, French, Geography and Environmental Studies, German, History, Linguistics, Library and Information Science, Music, Nederlands, Philosophy, Semiotics and Sociology. Including Biblical Studies, Christianity and Society, Christian Studies, Religious Studies, Hellenistic Greek and Hebrew.

Faculty of Community and Health Sciences

Includes Dietetics, Human Ecology, Human Movement Studies, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Psychology and Social Work.

Faculty of Dentistry (pre-clinical)

Includes Anatomy, Medical Microbiology and Physiology.

Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences

Includes Accounting, Management, Computer Science, Economics, Industrial Psychology, Information Systems, Political Studies, Public Administration and Statistics.

Faculty of Education

The Higher Diploma in Education offers subjects such as Didactics, Educational Psychology, Philosophy of Education and Comparative Education.

Faculty of Law

Includes Mercantile Law, Public Law, Adjective Law, Private Law, Comparative Law and International Law.

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Includes Applied Mathematics, Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geography, Geology, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics, Physiology, Statistics and Zoology. The School of Pharmacy also resorts under the Faculty of Science.

UWC MISSION

The University of the Western Cape is a national university, alert to its African and international context as it strives to be a place of quality, a place to grow. It is committed to excellence in teaching, learning and research, to nurturing the cultural diversity of South Africa, and to responding in critical and creative ways to the needs of a society in transition. Drawing on its proud experience in the liberation struggle, the university is aware of a distinctive academic role in helping build an equitable and dynamic society.

In particular, it aims to:

- advance and protect the independence of the academic enterprise;
- design curricula and research programmes appropriate to its southern African context;
- further global perspectives among its staff and students, thereby strengthening intellectual life and contributing to South Africa's reintegration in the world community;
- assist educationally disadvantaged students gain access to higher education and succeed in their studies;
- nurture and use the abilities of all in the university community;
- develop effective structures and conventions of governance, which are democratic, transparent and accountable;
- seek racial and gender equality and contribute to helping the historically marginalised participate fully in the life of the nation;
- encourage and provide opportunities for lifelong learning through programmes and courses;
- help conserve and explore the environmental and cultural resources of the southern African region, and to encourage a wide awareness of them in the community;
- cooperate fully with other stakeholders to develop an excellent and, therefore, transformed higher education system.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE: A BRIEF HISTORY

The University of the Western Cape, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in the year 2000, is one of the youngest and most dynamic places of higher learning in South Africa. It was established in 1959 by an Act of Parliament as an ethnic college for "coloured" students. Since then, it has transformed itself from a small apartheid educational institution to an internationally recognised university with a reputation for excellence in teaching, learning and research.

The university opened its doors in 1960 in a vacant primary school building in Bellville South. The first 170 students, 10 of whom were female, enrolled for undergraduate courses in Arts, Science, and Education. Most qualified as nurses, social workers, librarians and teachers. They were taught by 17 academics who were assisted by 10 non-lecturing staff.

Since then, the university has grown from three to seven faculties (Arts, Community and Health Sciences, Dentistry, Economic and Management Sciences, Education, Law and Natural Sciences). These faculties comprise 68 departments and 16 institutes, schools and research centres. Student numbers have risen to 12 450, including approximately 215 international students. Postgraduate students make up 19% of the student body. Over 1 400 people, including 374 permanent academic staff, work at the university.

The early years (1960-1975)

Following its establishment, the University College Western Cape was placed under the tutelage of the University of South Africa (Unisa) in Pretoria. It was run by academics who supported racial separation and who saw their role as "white guardians" of their "coloured wards".

During the first decade, students attended the university under protest, with many viewing it as a second-choice institution. However, in the absence of alternatives, student enrolment figures grew, from 170 in 1960 to 481 in 1966 and 936 in 1970.

In 1970, the college was granted academic autonomy and gained the right to develop its own courses, set its own exams and confer its own degrees. Although the spread of degree options remained narrow, two new faculties, Theology and Dentistry, were established in 1973.

The first expression of student frustration with the conservative administration came in 1970 when students burnt their ties in protest against the university's formal dress code. Three years later protest action started by students and black staff led to the appointment of the university's first black rector in 1975.

A freer climate (1975-1986)

The new, freer climate established under the leadership of Professor Richard van der Ross was marked by open negotiation with students and staff, stimulation of intellectual debate and recognition of international scholarship.

During Van der Ross's 12 years of tenure, student enrolments rose from 1 500 to 7 600 in 1985, the academic staff complement grew to 400, the total number of staff reached 1 000, and the original four faculties grew to eight. Van der Ross also addressed salary disparities and raised the university's profile in the corporate world.

In 1982 the university adopted a new mission statement - UWC Objectives - in which it formally rejected the apartheid ideology on which it had been founded and committed itself to non-racialism and the development of the Third World communities in South Africa. This philosophy permeated all aspects of university life, from academic programmes to community outreach projects and student admissions to staff appointments.

In 1984, the university gained full autonomy, giving it the right to control its



The Cape Flats Nature Reserve was established in 1977. Over 210 indigenous plant species and numerous birds, reptiles, insects and mammals thrive in the 30 ha reserve, which forms part of the UWC campus. The reserve's Environmental Education and Resources Unit conducts a range of educational programmes and recreational facilities for teachers, school groups and the community at large. Reserve staff also participate in indigenous greening projects and so far, they have helped establish 63 gardens at schools and in communities.



UWC has a rich history of opposition to apartheid. For nearly three decades - from the 1970s through to the early 1990s - students and staff consistently protested against segregation and inequality in society and, particularly, in higher education. The election of South Africa's first democratic government in 1994 has vindicated the university's stance of aligning itself with extra-parliamentary democratic forces. It has also brought a sense of peace to South African campuses.

own financial affairs, create posts, appoint staff and be governed by its own council without first having to obtain ministerial approval.

Intellectual home of the left (1987-1996)

The 1987 appointment of Professor Jakes Gerwel as rector and vice-chancellor accelerated the process of transformation. At his installation, Gerwel called for the university to become the "intellectual home of the left" where progressive thinkers could debate their ideas without compromising the principles of autonomy, diversity and freedom of expression. At the same time the university aligned itself with the ideals of the extra-parliamentary mass democratic movement and committed itself to academic programmes, outreach projects, and policy research aimed at the building of a democratic, post-apartheid society.

Under Gerwel the university adopted an "open admissions" policy to make it more accessible to disadvantaged students and developed a highly successful model for integrating academic development support for students into mainstream teaching. These educational initiatives gave promising students a chance to obtain degrees and opened the doors of learning to a growing number of African students. Today, UWC is probably the most representative university in South Africa and its students come from all of the country's 11 language groups.

Other significant accomplishments under Gerwel's leadership included the establishment of the Faculties of Community and Health Sciences and Economic and Management Sciences, the School of Government, the Mayibuye Centre for History and Culture in South Africa and the Public Health Programme.

The university also began to reap the benefits of some of its outreach programmes. A maths and science education project established in 1982 contributed to UWC having the highest undergraduate science intake in the country. The Faculty of Education could boast the largest postgraduate enrolment in the country. The Faculty of Dentistry moved to Mitchells Plain, where it continues to provide free dental care for 80 000 people per year.

Towards the millennium

Cecil Abrahams took office as UWC's seventh rector and vice-chancellor on 12 April 1996. Under his stewardship, the university adopted a new mission statement in which it pledged itself to help build an equitable and dynamic society, nurture cultural diversity in South Africa, and respond in critical and creative ways to the needs of a changing country.

The university has since undertaken an extensive review of curricula, strengthened the interdisciplinary thrust of its academic programmes, aligned education and qualifications with the needs of a changing society, forged more active partnerships with educational institutions around the globe and increased its information technology facilities for students and staff.

Abrahams also set in motion a process to develop a more inclusive, transparent and democratic system of governance. Today, the university is run by a council, senate and institutional forum, with representatives from all interest groups in the university community taking part in decision-making.

The university's mission has gained further expression in its strategic plan to take it into the next millennium. Its goals include the provision of wide-ranging lifelong learning programmes and the launch of UWC's millennium



The striking UWC library, covering an area of 14 000m², presides over the campus's central square. Despite its size, its interior is marked by a cosy, warm quality aimed at providing students with the best possible environment for learning. Built in 1988, its architects were awarded the inaugural Glass SA Award for Excellence by the Institute of South African Architects.

programmes - dedicated postgraduate programmes that will address new-century questions and draw on the best of UWC's scholarship. Other challenges include: intensifying and expanding programmes that will meet the needs of communities in transition; consolidating the university's relationship with the private sector; and increasing research in multimedia telecommunication and information technology.

In four short decades, UWC has come of age. Since 1963, more than 30,000 students have graduated from UWC. Today, many of them occupy top government and cabinet posts or play a leading role in the corporate, science, health and civil society sectors. This prompted former President Nelson Mandela to say that UWC "is indeed an institution that has attracted and produced men and women of the highest quality". UWC has a proud history of fighting for access, equity and quality in higher education, and in so doing has set the pace for innovation and transformation in all aspects of tertiary education in South Africa. It is now truly a place of quality, a place to grow.

Did you know? *Some highlights from a longer list...*

1975-1986: The University of the Western Cape was the first South African university to introduce parity in salaries, irrespective of staff members' race, creed or sex. During his tenure Professor Richard van der Ross (1975-1986) did away with a three-tier salary structure according to which whites were paid more than their coloured and African colleagues.

1992: UWC established a Gender Standing Committee - the first of its kind at a South African university. Coordinated by Rhoda Kadalie, one of its aims was to examine and address sexist practices, relations and attitudes at the university. The Committee drafted the university's first policy and procedure on sexual harassment and established an Ad-hoc Committee on Rape to formulate policy on how to deal with cases of rape on campus. The Standing Committee also played a role in the planning of Honours and Masters programmes focusing on women and gender. These commenced in 1993.

1993: The Gender Equity Unit was established to research and monitor gender equity issues on campus.

1994-1995: Three of the Law Faculty's staff members joined the country's first democratic national cabinet. They were Professor Dullah Omar as Minister of Justice (and now Minister of Transport), Professor Kader Asmal as Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry (and now Minister of Education), and Brigitte Mabandla as deputy minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology.

Student Demographics

- 57% female; 43% male
- 82% undergraduate; 18% postgraduate
- 28% economic & management sciences; 18% arts; 15% community & health sciences; 14% science; 14% law; 8% education; & 3% dentistry

WORKING AT UWC

UWC is not the largest university in South Africa, or even in the Western Cape. Nor is it the oldest, the wealthiest, or the best endowed with facilities. Yet it consistently attracts a disproportionate number of high-calibre staff, many of whom it employs for a large portion of their working lives.

What attracts people to UWC and keeps them there? In the 1980s a large part of the attraction was UWC's status as the "intellectual home of the Left", as a university which unequivocally committed its teaching, research and service activities to the post-apartheid ideal.

In the 1990s and into the new millenium the university's mission is deeply informed by a sense of responsibility to the new South Africa, whether it be through preparation of a corps of leaders, intellectuals, professionals and skilled technicians, through leading in the field of providing educational opportunities for the socio-economically disadvantaged, or through developing a university community that truly reflects South Africa's diversity.

For some staff, the opportunity of being part of a process of providing students with the education needed to work in a post-apartheid South Africa is the attraction. For others it is the opportunity to be part of an institution which not only caters primarily for students from a disadvantaged background, but regards educational disadvantage as a majority problem and addresses it through programmes and practices that inform all aspects of the university's way of working.

Many are also drawn by the opportunity to put into practice, through community outreach programmes, their vision for achieving an equitable society. As a university which has been lauded for its community orientation and focus, UWC offers a unique academic environment from which to make real changes in the communities in which it is rooted.

Academic excellence, too, is a major drawcard. UWC has received both local and international acclaim for its work in a variety of disciplines, and has proved itself capable, in the face of considerable adversity, of cutting-edge research and innovation in both the natural and social sciences.

Part of UWC's mission is to nurture and use the abilities of all in the univesity community and it does this through a variety of means, including the extensive programme of staff development workshops run by the Academic Development Centre, stimulating international exchange programmes, and providing invaluable opportunities for all its staff, both academic and administrative, to enhance their own skills and careers in accordance with the university's philosophy of lifelong learning.

UWC's orientation is not only to the academic and career needs of its staff, however. As a work environment it offers much more

International Relations

Faculties and departments at the University of the Western Cape have a range of formalised agreements with tertiary institutions and educational networks worldwide. These agreements typically cover the following:

- staff exchanges
- student exchanges
- joint research programmes
- joint conferences
- joint student supervision
- exchange of materials and resources
- staff development and training opportunities.

Some of the university's major linkage programmes are listed below:

For more information, contact the International Relations Office on:

Tel: (021) 959-2884/3340

Fax: (021) 959-2655

e-mail: dlamson@uwc.ac.za, jpersens@uwc.ac.za, jpaulsen@uwc.ac.za

University to university linkages based on memoranda of agreement

Country	University
United States of America	University at Buffalo University of California-Los Angeles Michigan State University University of Missouri System (Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, St Louis) University of Oklahoma Ohio University (Athens) Pennsylvania State University Wesleyan University
Belgium	Free University of Brussels Gent University Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
The Netherlands	Leiden University Utrecht University
Sweden	Linköping University
France	University Aix-Marseilles
Ukraine	Institute of General Inorganic Chemistry of the Ukrainian Academy of Science

Faculty-to-faculty linkages based on memoranda of agreement

UWC Faculty	International partner faculty
Community and Health Sciences	Arnhem and Neijmegen Hogescholen, The Netherlands
Economic and Management Sciences	Arnhem and Neijmegen Hogescholen, The Netherlands Centre for Management and Infrastructure Development at Linköping University, Sweden
Education	Ohio University, USA
Law	Utrecht University, The Netherlands Howard University, USA Von Humboldt University, Germany University of Reunion, Reunion
*Religion and Theology	Stockholm School of Theology, Sweden Princeton Theological Seminary, USA Limuru Theological Seminary, Kenya Columbia Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia

*As from 2000, the Faculty of Religion and Theology will be incorporated into the Arts Faculty at UWC.

Department-to-department linkages

Department	International partner department
Industrial Psychology	Dortmund University, Germany
Physics	Arizona State University, USA
Human Movement Studies	Institute of Sport Studies, University of Heidelberg, Germany

Membership of consortia and networks

Network	Network members
UNITWIN Network	UWC, Utrecht University (The Netherlands), University of Namibia, University of Zimbabwe, Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique), Lund University (Sweden), Bochum University (Germany), University de Porto (Portugal)
South African Science Education Network	UWC, Vista University (Bloemfontein), University of South Africa, University of Pretoria, Flemish Inter-University Council (Belgium)
Southern African Consortium of Universities in Development and Environment	UWC, University of Cape Town, University of Durban-Westville, University of Natal, University of the Witwatersrand, University of Botswana
Africa-America Graduate School	UWC, Nairobi University of Nairobi (Kenya), Howard University (USA), Oregon State System (USA), ATLAS Graduate Deans' Committee (USA)

Funded programmes and projects

UWC programmes and projects	Funding partner
Faculty of Education	Ministry of Education, Namibia; Eritrea
Mathematics Education	Norwegian Universities Committee on Development Research and Communication (NUFU)
Zoology; Biotechnology	Royal Society
Thintana Project	Malaysia Telecom, Telkom, Southwest Bell
Various Tertiary Education Linkages Programmes (TELP)	USAID
Public Health Programme	NUFU
School of Government projects	NUFU
Department of Economics: Centre of Excellence	USAID
Zoology	France

Funding for staff development

UWC has agreements with the following organisations, trusts and foundations in support of staff development and training:

- Fulbright Fellowships
- Mellon Foundation Graduate Scholarships
- Mellon Foundation University Fellowships
- Pennsylvania State University SHARE Fellowships
- South African-Netherlands Programme for Alternatives in Development (SANPAD)
- Wellcome Trust

The UWC Botany Department houses a branch of the International Ocean Institute, an NGO with headquarters in Malta. The International Ocean Institute/Southern Africa focuses on marine science research and training in the subregion.

Dept. of Management – Post Grad

(replace management with leadership and it sounds similar to LAC)

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The University's mission — “a place of quality, a place to grow” — is reflected in our emphasis on high quality management education and development programmes.

Our formal admission requirements are flexible because we recognise the value of skills and competencies learned through meaningful work experience, as well as tertiary education. We welcome all students who can demonstrate management and leadership potential because many competent people from disadvantaged communities have been denied opportunities to fully develop their potential through tertiary education.

While our admission criteria are flexible we expect the highest standards of our graduates to ensure that our qualifications are highly regarded in the marketplace.

A modular structure, coupled with principles of career-long learning, and flexible entry and exit points underpins our programme structure. Our qualification structure is unique because students may transfer credits from a one-week certificate course to a masters degree, or any qualification in between.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Management at the University of the Western Cape is fast establishing itself as a leader in preparing South African managers for the challenges posed by a rapidly transforming society.

Our country's economic growth is dependent on the rapid development of a cadre of talented managers who are attuned to the domestic context and the competitive demands of an increasingly global market-place. Countless studies have highlighted the need to expand and transform the provision of education and training opportunities, particularly for previously disadvantaged groups. The implementation of the Employment Equity Act highlights the importance of developing the skills needed to reshape the profile of the managerial ranks.

Our innovative professional management programmes can enhance your career opportunities and are making an invaluable contribution to develop the leadership cadre required to drive our country's economic development.

QUALIFICATIONS

Our five-tier structure of professional management qualifications is aimed at addressing the diverse needs of our students and our economy for differentiated cutting-edge management education. The following qualifications are offered:

- Master of Management
- B.Com.(Honours)
- Advanced Diploma in Management
- Management Development Programme
- Certificates in Management

These qualifications enable recent graduates and experienced employees to empower themselves with the skills, competencies and knowledge required to advance to the highest levels of management.

FIELDS OF STUDY

Our modular system enables flexible combinations so students can create a learning programme with Management at the core in any one of the following fields:

- Business Administration
- Enterprise Management & Development
- Finance
- General Management
- Human Resource Management
- Information Technology
- Marketing
- Sport and Recreation Management
- Industrial Relations/Management & Labour Studies

Outreach

Drawing on its proud experience in the struggle to end apartheid, UWC has been lauded for its role in preparing for sustained change in South Africa. It continues to actively pursue community-oriented projects and programmes which make change happen. Firmly rooted in community, the university places increasing emphasis on exposing students and staff to the needs and demands of the community it serves through a variety

of outreach projects and programmes.

Two of the longest-running and most successful of these are in the fields of primary health care and sciences and mathematics education.

Climate

The Cape has a Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Average climatic conditions are:

Month Season	Dec-Jan Summer	March-May Autumn	June-August Winter	Sept-Nov Spring
Maximum temperature Degree Centigrade	26	22	17	21
Minimum temperature Degree Centigrade	15	11	7	10
Average rainfall (mm)	11	55	8	76
Sun hours daily	11	8	6	9
Humidity %	70	76	81	74

A simple rule of thumb to get from *C to F is add 50. Its not exact but at least it tells you what kind of clothes to wear. (eg. Mar -May: 77 max, 66 min) Since we are late May it could be 67 max, 57 min)

Currency

South Africa has a decimal currency system: 100 cents = R1.00 (One Rand). Coin denominations are 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, R1, R2 and R5. Note denominations are R10 (green), R20 (brown), R50 (red), R100 (blue) and R200 (orange).

Tax refunds

Visitors to South Africa are not exempt from paying 14% VAT (value-added tax) on bought goods. However, foreign tourists can claim back the VAT paid on items, with a total value exceeding R250. The VAT can be claimed at the airport on departure. Visitors should present original tax invoices, a VAT refund control sheet, a foreign passport, and items for which a refund is being claimed to VAT Refund Administration Offices and Customs Offices.

CAPE TOWN

History of Cape Town

The cityscape of Cape Town reflects a history rich in contrasts: governors and slaves, reformers and missionaries, empire builders and ordinary people who became extraordinary role models for a new democratic nation. Beside soaring modern blocks of glass and steel in the city centre, historic buildings - preserved and restored to their former glory - bear testimony to this past.



The oldest existing building in South Africa, the Castle was built in 1666 to protect the new settlement at the Cape. Still operational as a military base, today its five imposing stone walls also house a museum with artifacts dating back to the 17th century and troops dressed in historic uniform parade on its cobbled grounds.



Nearby, across the Grand Parade, stand the Drill Hall and Cape Town's Italian Renaissance-style City Hall, completed in 1905. The Slave Lodge, the second oldest building in Cape Town, has served many purposes in its nearly three centuries. Originally built as accommodation for the slaves of the Dutch East India Company, it was also Cape Town's first post office, a library and the Supreme Court. Today it is home to the SA Cultural History Museum and its displays of ceramics, toys, silver and textiles from Cape Town's past, as well as artifacts from ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome.

The historic Company Gardens, established by Jan van Riebeeck in 1652 as a vegetable garden from which to supply fresh produce to passing ships, today offers city dwellers and office workers a peaceful refuge from the bustle of the city's commercial centre. A cobbled avenue, lined with oak trees, leads to the South African Museum, the South African National Gallery, the Bertram House Museum and the Jewish Museum, which is housed in the oldest synagogue in South Africa.

Just beyond, South Africa's Parliament buildings stand in imposing array around the cobbles of Stal Plein ("plein" meaning "square").

Numerous other buildings of historic interest, such as Koopman de Wet House in Strand Street, Heritage Square in Bree Street, and many along the upper reaches of Long Street, are dotted throughout the city centre.

Situated on the lower slopes of Signal Hill, the Bo-Kaap (literally "upper Cape") is home to many descendants of the Malay slaves brought to the Cape during the 17th century. Most of the families which inhabit its colourful rows of houses are devout Muslims, and the call to prayer can be heard in the narrow, cobbled streets throughout the day. The Bo-Kaap Museum portrays aspects of Cape Muslim culture.

Robben Island is, after Alcatraz, possibly the best known prison island in the world. Having served over the centuries as a penal settlement, leper colony and lunatic asylum, its notoriety has, more recently, centred around the fact that President Nelson Mandela and many of his colleagues were imprisoned here during the apartheid era. Regular trips are made to the island, a world heritage site, by a ferry which departs from the V&A Waterfront.

National monuments such as Onze Molen, along with Mostert's Mill in Mowbray one of the few original windmills still extant in the Cape Town area, and numerous old churches in Durbanville and Parow, reflect the origins of some of the early settlers in the Tygerberg area. Set in landscaped gardens, Rust-en-Vrede Cultural Centre in Durbanville - an old Cape Dutch complex dating back to 1850 - originally served as a prison, Drostdy (magistrates court), school and, ultimately, a private residence.

Inside, creations by prominent South Africans are on exhibition in the Durbanville Clay Museum. A few kilometres away in Khayelitsha, the Mayibuye Centre Museum reflects the political turbulence and memorabilia of the apartheid era.

Somerset West, in the Helderberg region, boasts many buildings and artifacts from South Africa's diverse cultural past. These include Vergelegen, built in 1700 by Governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel, the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk built in 1820 (where "Onze Jan" Hofmeyer and other prominent South Africans are buried), the old bridge over the Lourens River built in 1845, the coachman's cottage and the Ou Pastorie and, at the Macassar Kramat, the last resting place of Sheikh Yusuf, who was brought to South Africa as a slave and introduced Islam, today one of the Cape's major religions - to the area.

The historic farms in the Oostenberg countryside, dating back to the 18th century, serve as a reminder of the area's agricultural heritage. Many of these fine examples of early Cape Dutch architecture, such as Zevenwacht, Hazendal and Mooiplaas Wine Estates, are still operating wine farms, producing outstanding vintages for South

Africa's thriving wine industry. Other, less imposing though no less important souvenirs of the area's rich history include the historic milestone in Van Riebeeck Road, Kuilsriver (now on display in the entrance hall to the Municipal Building), which once marked the distance on the road from Cape Town to what, in the late 17th century, was a cattle-post near the convergence of the Kuils and Bottleray Rivers

Just beyond the row of stately palms that marks the entrance to Milnerton stands an old wooden bridge (1901) that, while no longer in use, still links Woodbridge Island to the mainland. A cast of the original Postal Stone can be seen at the library in Table View, and Ons Huisie Restaurant, a restored fisherman's cottage in Bloubergstrand, typifies the vernacular architectural style of this region. Further up the coast are the historic Moravian Mission Stations of Pella and Mamre with a church dating back to 1808, an old watermill, cook house, long house, shop and school.

Built in 1685 for Simon van der Stel, then governor of the Cape, Groot Constantia is the oldest homestead in the Cape. Reflecting the gracious lifestyle of the late 18th century, the manor house incorporates priceless collections of exquisite Cape furniture from the mid-1800s as well as rare Chinese and Japanese porcelains and Delft ceramics.

Situated along the False Bay Coast in the South Peninsula, the suburbs of Kalk Bay, St James and Muizenberg were fashionable seaside resorts during the early part of this century. Many of the beautiful residences in St James are, in fact, National Monuments, while Muizenberg is reputed to have been one of Rudyard Kipling's favourite places, and is where Cecil John Rhodes retired after the events leading up to the Anglo-Boer War. Period furniture and some of this extraordinary man's personal possessions may be viewed at Rhodes Cottage. Once a whaling station, Kalk Bay is now a working fishing harbour that reflects its cosmopolitan past in architecture, cuisine, arts and crafts.

Local Lingo Guide

Braai

A braai is a barbecue and it will take place whatever the weather.

Ag

This is one of the most useful South African words. Pronounced like the “ach” in German “achtung”, it can be used to start a reply when you are asked a tricky question, as in: “Ag, I don’t know”. Or as a sense of resignation: “Ag, I’ll have some more food then”. It can stand alone too as a signal of irritation or of pleasure.



Ag shame

An expression of pity as in “Ag shame, you should have seen the little puppy” or “Ag shame, he fell off his bike”.

Biltong

Similar to jerky, it is dried, salted meat and can be made from beef or ostrich.

Doll

A term of affection between males and females, it is mostly used in the Johannesburg area. A corrupted form of “darling”, It will be heard thus: “Your turn to take out the dirtbin, Doll”.

Eina

Widely used by all language groups, this word, derived from the Afrikaans, means “ouch”. Pronounced “Aynah, you can shout it out in sympathy when someone burns their finger on a hot potato at a braai.

Hang of

This is the same as the American “heck of”, as in: “I have a hang of a head ache or “I had a hang of a good time

at the braai”.

Izit?

This is a great word in conversations. Derived from the two words “is” and “it”, it can be used when you have nothing to contribute.

Jislaaik!

Pronounced “Yis-like”, it is an expression of astonishment.

Just now

Universally used, it means “eventually” and sometimes “never”.

If someone says he will do something “just know” it could be in 10 minutes time or tomorrow.

Lekker

An Afrikaans word meaning nice, this is used by all language groups to express approval.

Oke

A “guy” or “chap” or “bloke”. If you like someone you can say: Ag, he is an okay oke”. Instead of “oke” you can also say “ou” which is pronounced “oh”

Pap

Encountered at braais, pap is boiled corn meal. Pronounced “pup”.

Tackies

They are sneakers or running shoes. This word is also used to describe automobile or truck tyres.

Make a plan

You will hear this good old South African phrase quite a lot. It means things might be chaotic right now but we’ll think of something just now. If you miss the bus to the airport, the hotel receptionist might say. “don’t worry -we’ll make a plan”.

Vrot

A wonderful word that means “rotten” or “putrid” in Afrikaans, it is used by all language groups to describe anything they don’t really like. Most commonly it describes fruit or vegetables whose shelf lives have long expired.

Climate

The climate is in general Mediterranean; with warm, dry summers and mild, moist winters.



Cape Town in yellow; Bellville is the red dot.

Conversions

(Distances and Temperatures)

- South Africa uses kilometers (km):
 - o 1 mile = 1,621km
- South Africa uses degrees Celsius (°C):
 - o 50°F = 10°C
 - o 68°F = 20°C
 - o 86°F = 30°C

In the arid semi-desert of the Karoo this differs, with dry winters and low summer rainfall. On the coast during summer the temperature ranges from 15°C up to 27°C. Inland it increases with 3 - 5°C. During winter it ranges between 7°C and 18°C. Inland the mornings are 5°C and the midday around 22°C.

Just beware the forceful "Cape Doctor" that appears as if from nowhere. This south-easterly wind helps to clear the air of the Fairest Cape for your enjoyment, and drapes Table Mountain with a snow-white tablecloth of clouds that lay the "table" for a wonderful stay.