

10 things to know about

Cape Town

UNESCO City of Design

since 2019



1. Cape Town is affectionately referred to as the Mother City
2. Cape Town is the home of Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
3. The world's first heart transplant was performed in Cape Town by Dr Christiaan Barnard in 1967
4. The University of Cape Town (UCT) is home to one of only three Hasso Plattner Institutes of Design Thinking globally. Cape Town is also the home of the first and second oldest universities in South Africa: Founded in 1829, the University of Cape Town (UCT) is the oldest followed by the University of Stellenbosch that was established in 1863
5. Cape Town is the first UNESCO City of Design in Africa
6. Cape Town was the first World Design Capital in Africa in 2014 that represented the developing world

7. Cape Town is situated in the Province of the Western Cape, the first in Africa to have developed a provincial Design Strategy
8. As one of eight UNESCO Heritage sites in South Africa, the Cape Floral Kingdom is unique and represents more than 7000 plant species that you will not be able to find anywhere else in the world. Table Mountain, originally known as Hoerikwagga (Mountain in the Sea), is one of the new seven wonders of the world, and the Table Mountain National Park is home to more plant species within its 22 000 hectares than the whole of the British Isles or New Zealand
9. After his release from prison, Nelson Mandela made his first and most famous speech from the balcony of the Cape Town City Hall, addressing thousands of citizens that gathered on the Grand Parade on 11 Feb 1990. This was the start of designing South Africa's new Democracy
10. The Victoria and Alfred (V&A) Waterfront in Cape Town is the top destination in Africa and welcomes 180 000 visitors daily in peak season. Nobel Square at the V&A, which includes the four sculptures of SA's Nobel Peace Prize winners, namely Albert Lutuli, Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, and FW De Klerk is a favourite amongst visitors. The V&A is also the home of the Zeitz MOCAA Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, the biggest museum in Afrika dedicated to contemporary art from the continent and its diaspora.



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city of design