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Tour Guide to The Western Cape



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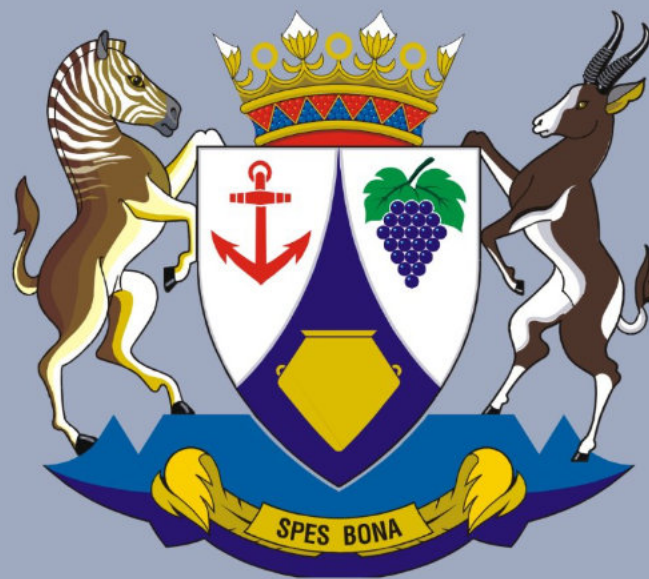
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Component # 1 - West Coast Region

Module 1

Component 1



Western Cape Province Overview



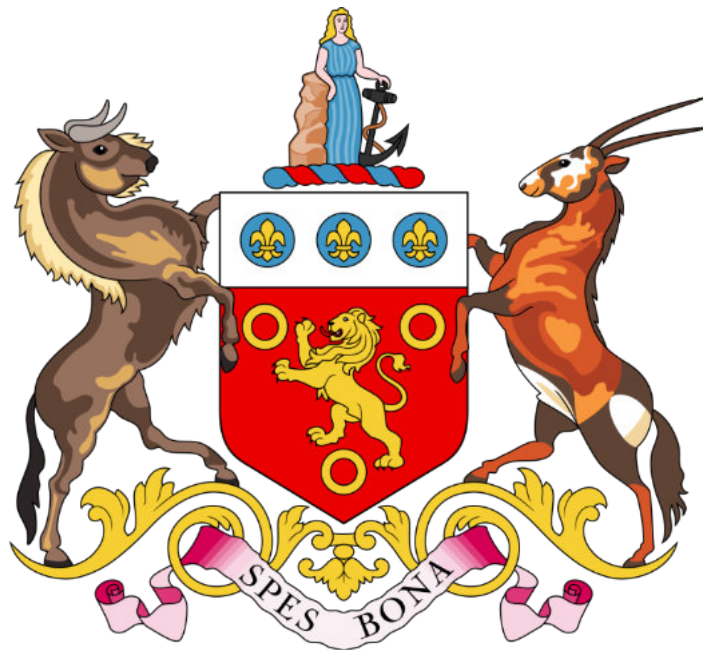


'This Cape is the most stately thing and the fairest Cape we saw in the whole circumference of the Earth.' These were the words of the English navigator, Sir Francis Drake when he passed the Cape of Good Hope in 1580.

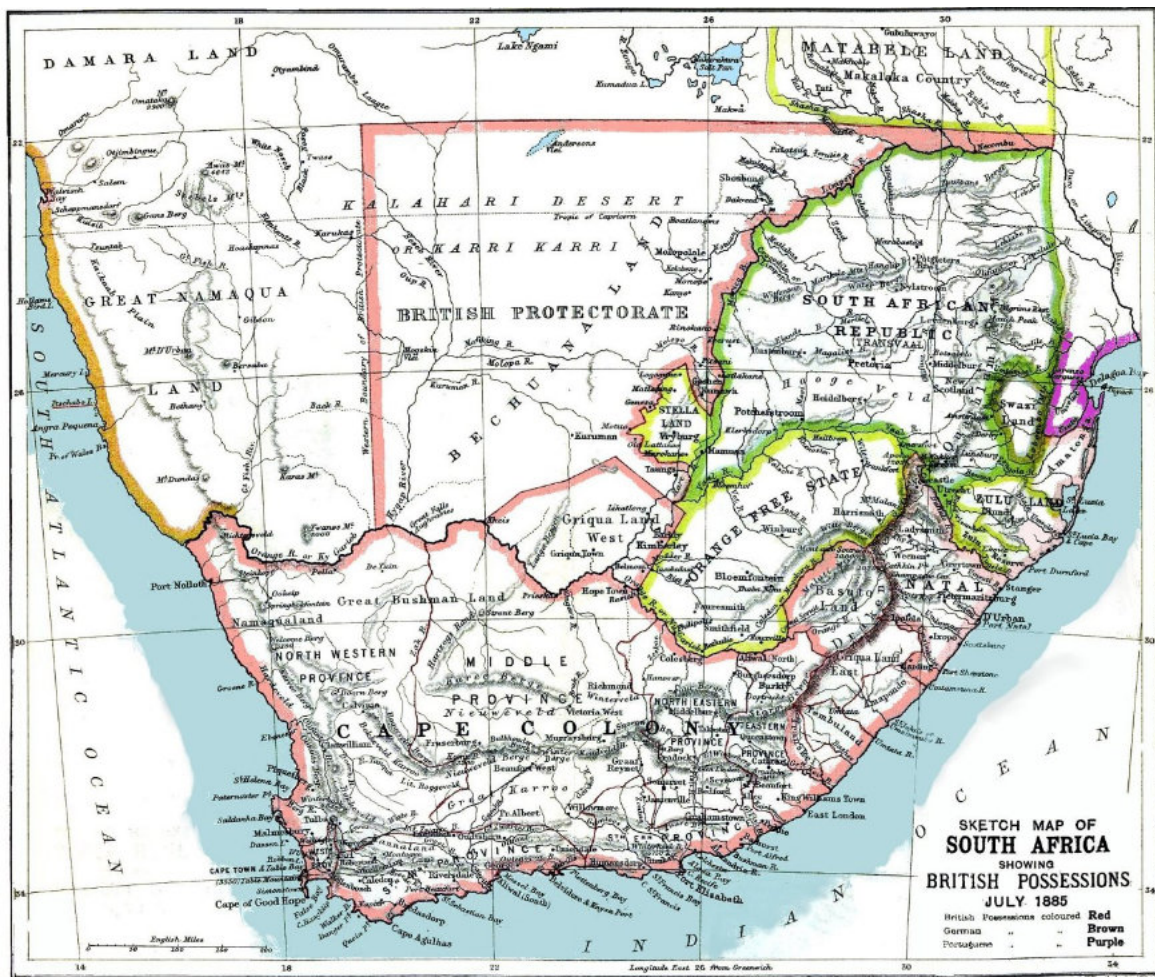
Introduction

The Western Cape is **one of South Africa's prime tourist destinations**. It is a region of majestic mountains, beautiful valleys, sandy beaches, colourful people, legends and stories. The Western Cape is situated on the southern tip of Africa, with Cape Agulhas at the southernmost point of the continent. It is caught up between **two oceans**, the **Indian in the East** and the **Atlantic on its western shorelines**. The Northern Cape and Eastern Cape Provinces form their northwestern and eastern borders, respectively.

Initially called the **Cape Colony before unification in 1910**, whereafter it became known as **the Cape Province**. After the 1994 elections, it was divided into the Western, Eastern and Northern Cape Provinces.



Cape Colony Coat of Arms



Scottish Geographical Magazine, 1885.

Sketch Map of South Africa showing British Possessions July 1885

Western Cape Province Overview

Some of the wonderful places and attractions you will encounter when visiting the Province include:

- ✿ Cango Caves
- ✿ Cape Peninsula
- ✿ Cape Town (the 'Mother City')
- ✿ Garden Route
- ✿ Kirstenbosch
- ✿ Swartberg Pass
- ✿ Table Mountain
- ✿ The Winelands
- ✿ Walker Bay (whale watching)



Spectacular view of The Cape

Location of the Western Cape Province in South Africa



Western Cape Province Overview

Municipal map of the Province

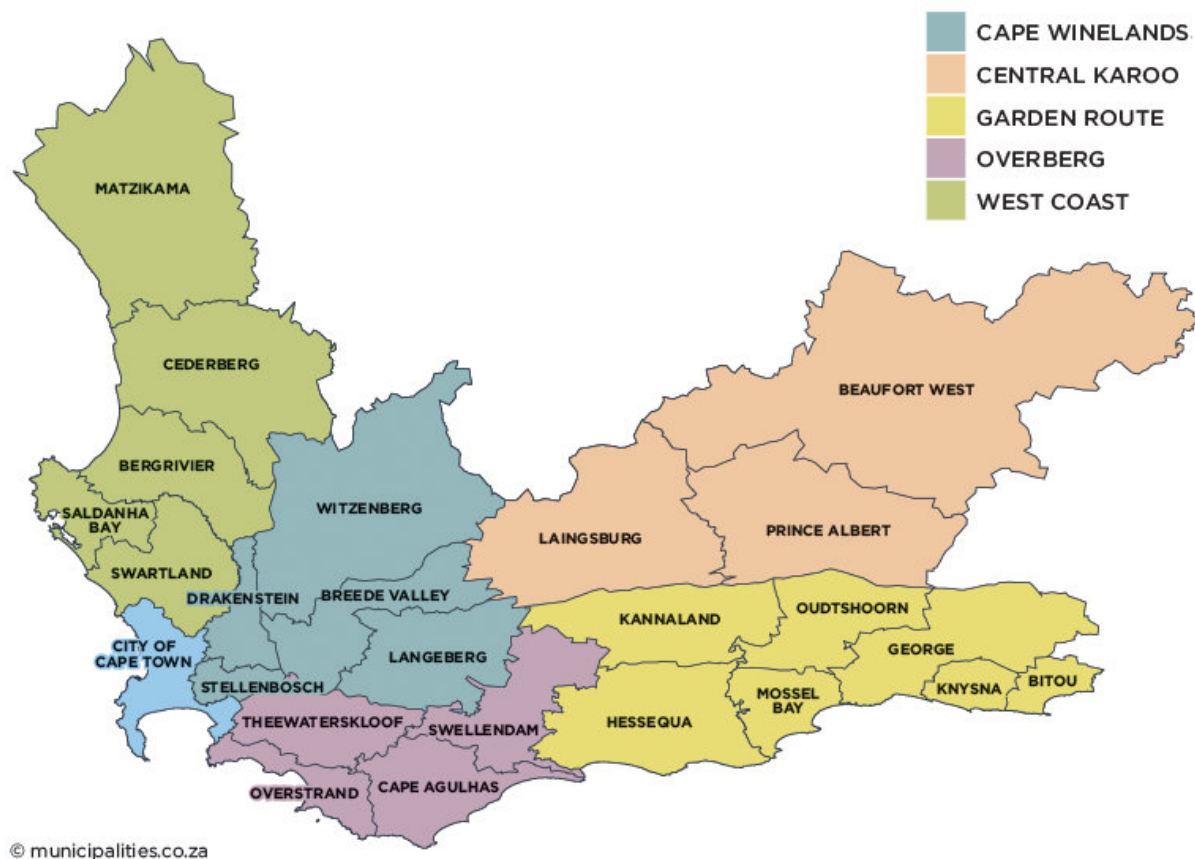


Image source: www.municipalities.co.za

Coat of Arms



Motto: Spes Bona - 'Good Hope'

- ❖ **The anchor in the shield:** A symbol of hope, stability and faith. It also points to the maritime history and riches of the Western Cape.
- ❖ **The grapes in the shield:** The importance of agriculture, especially the wine industry.
- ❖ **The clay pot at the base of the shield:** Refers to the manufacturing sector. The pot is of Khoi origin, the earliest inhabitants of the Province. It is a copy of the one found at Ceres.
- ❖ **The Quagga** (*Equus quagga quagga*) - supporting the shield on the left. Extinct - A specialised breeding programme aims to produce a close replica of this animal.
- ❖ **The Bontebok** (*Damaliscus dorcas dorcas*) - supporting the shield on the right: Unique to the Western Cape. The two animals stand on a base in the form of a stylised Table Mountain.
- ❖ **The crown:** A beaded head ring represents the ornamentation used by the San. Alternating protea flower heads and rings adorn the top.

Demographics

Land surface area	Total Area rank	129,462km ² (49,986 sq. mi) 4 th in South Africa
Highest Elevation		2,325m (7,628 ft)
Population	Total Estimate (2022) Rank Density Density rank	5,822,734 (2011 census) 7,212,142 3 rd in South Africa 45/ km ² (120/sq. mi) 4 th in South Africa32
Languages	Afrikaans Xhosa English	49.7% 31.7% 20.2%
Races	Coloured African White Indian or Asian	32% 50% 16% 1%
Capital		Cape Town
Largest city		Cape Town

Municipalities and districts

The Western Cape Province comprises **one metropolitan municipality (City of Cape Town)** and **five district municipalities**. The latter is subdivided into **24 local municipalities**.

District municipalities





West Coast District:

-  Matzikama
-  Cederberg
-  Bergrivier
-  Saldanha Bay
-  Swartland

Cape Winelands District:

-  Witzenberg
-  Drakenstein
-  Stellenbosch
-  Breede Valley
-  Langeberg

Overberg District:

-  Theewaterskloof
-  Overstrand
-  Cape Agulhas
-  Swellendam

Garden Route District:

- Kannaland
- Hessequa
- Mossel Bay
- George
- Oudtshoorn
- Bitou
- Knysna

Central Karoo District:

- Laingsburg
- Prince Albert
- Beaufort West





The Cape of Good Hope. Looking west over Diaz Beach from the coastal cliffs above Cape Point.

Geographical features of landscapes (mountains)

The topography of the Western Cape varies widely from one region to another. **Most of the Province falls within the Cape Fold Belt.** The Valleys between ranges are generally very fertile. The far interior forms part of the Karoo Basin and are generally arid and hilly, with a sharp escarpment in the north. Coastal areas range from sandy beaches to rocky cliffs.

Cape Fold Belt: The folded sedimentary sequence of rocks in the southwestern corner of South Africa.

The rocks are generally:

-  **Shales** - responsible for the formation of the valleys.
-  **Sandstone** - erosion resistant and forms the parallel Mountain Ranges.

The geographic range of the Cape Fold Belt is from Cape Town in the west and the Cederberg Mountains in the northwest to Gqeberha (previously Port Elizabeth) in the Eastern Cape.

Mountain ranges, passes, and kloofs

The largest individual ranges within the Cape Fold Belt include from west to East:

Cederberg Mountains

Pakhuis pass: En route R364, east of Clanwilliam.

Olifants River Mountains

Piekenierskloof: Along N7 from Piketberg to Citrusdal.

Piketberg: The town of Piketberg lies at the foot of the mountain.

Winterhoek Mountains

Dasklip Pass

Skurweberge

Gydo Pass: North of Ceres and comes into Prince Alfred Hamlet R303.

Hex River Mountains: The second-highest range in the Province. The highest mountain is Matroosberg (2,249m) - the second-highest peak in the Province. The heaviest snowfalls occur in and around these ranges.

Theron's Berg Pass

Hexrivier Pass

Du Toitskloof Mountains: Du Toits Peak (1995m) - the highest peak in the Western Cape within a direct view of the ocean.

Du Toit's kloof pass (alternative Huguenot Tunnel): Between Paarl and Worcester along N1.

Klein Drakenstein Mountains: East of Paarl.

Groot Drakenstein Mountains: Victoria Peak (1,590m) is its highest point. Located south of Franschhoek and Stellenbosch.

Simonsberg: A prominent 1,399m high mountain. It is detached from the other ranges in the wine lands region. Located between the towns of Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek.

Hottentots-Holland Mountains

Sir Lowry's Pass: This range forms a barrier between the Cape Town Metropolitan area and the southern Overberg coast.

Hottentots-Holland Mountains

Viljoen's Pass: R321 from Grabouw to Villiersdorp.

Kogelberg: The R44 route is a scenic ocean drive. Located along False Bay. It starts south of Grabouw and forms a steep coastal range to Kleinmond.

Stettynsberge

Langeberg (170km long): The Clock Peaks are the highest. Traversed by four passes.

From West to East: The most westerly point is 35km west of Swellendam. The range ends some 30km northeast of Riversdale.

Cogmanskloof Pass: Links Montagu with Ashton on the R62.

Tradouw Pass: Links Barrydale with Swellendam and Heidelberg.

Garcia's Pass: Links Riversdale and Ladismith (Western Cape).

Cloete's Pass: Links Mossel Bay with Ladismith (Western Cape).

Riviersonderend Mountains: They run east to west from Riviersonderend to Villiersdorp. Separate the Breede River Valley from the Overberg region.

Kleinrivier Mountains: The highest mountain in the range is Maanskynekop (964m).

Shaw's Mountain Pass of the R320: It dominates the entire Walker Bay. Begins at Hermanus in the west, continues to the northeast of Stanford and terminates at Akkedisberg Pass.

Witteberge

Groot Swartberge: Spans some 230km from South of Laingsburg in the west to between Willowmore and Uniondale in the East.

Swartberg: Links Oudtshoorn and Prince Albert.

Schoemanspoort: Between Oudtshoorn and Cango Caves on R328.

Meiringspoort: Between Oudtshoorn and Klaarstroom. En route to Prince Albert along the N12.

Gamkaskloof: Reached from the summit of the Swartberg Pass.

Klein Swartberge: The Seweweekspoortpiek (Seven Weeks Defile Peak) is at 2325m, the highest in the Province. The famous Towerkop (Bewitch Peak) towers over the Klein Karoo town of Ladismith at 2240m.

Huis River Pass: Links Zoar and Calitzdorp (along the R62).

Seweweekspoort: North of Voëlvlei (between Zoar and Calitzdorp on the R62).

Outeniqua Mountains

Outeniqua Pass: Links George and Oudtshoorn (along R62).

Montagu Pass: A historic gravel pass joining George and the small town of Herold.

Prince Alfred's Pass: Links Knysna and Avontuur (along R339).

Homtini and Phantom Passes: Part of the seven passes on the old road between Knysna.

Langkloof Mountains: Short Mountain range linking the Outeniqua and Tsitsikamma Mountains to the north of Plettenberg Bay. It stretches from Prince Alfred's Pass in the west to just north of Nature's Valley and south of Joubertina.

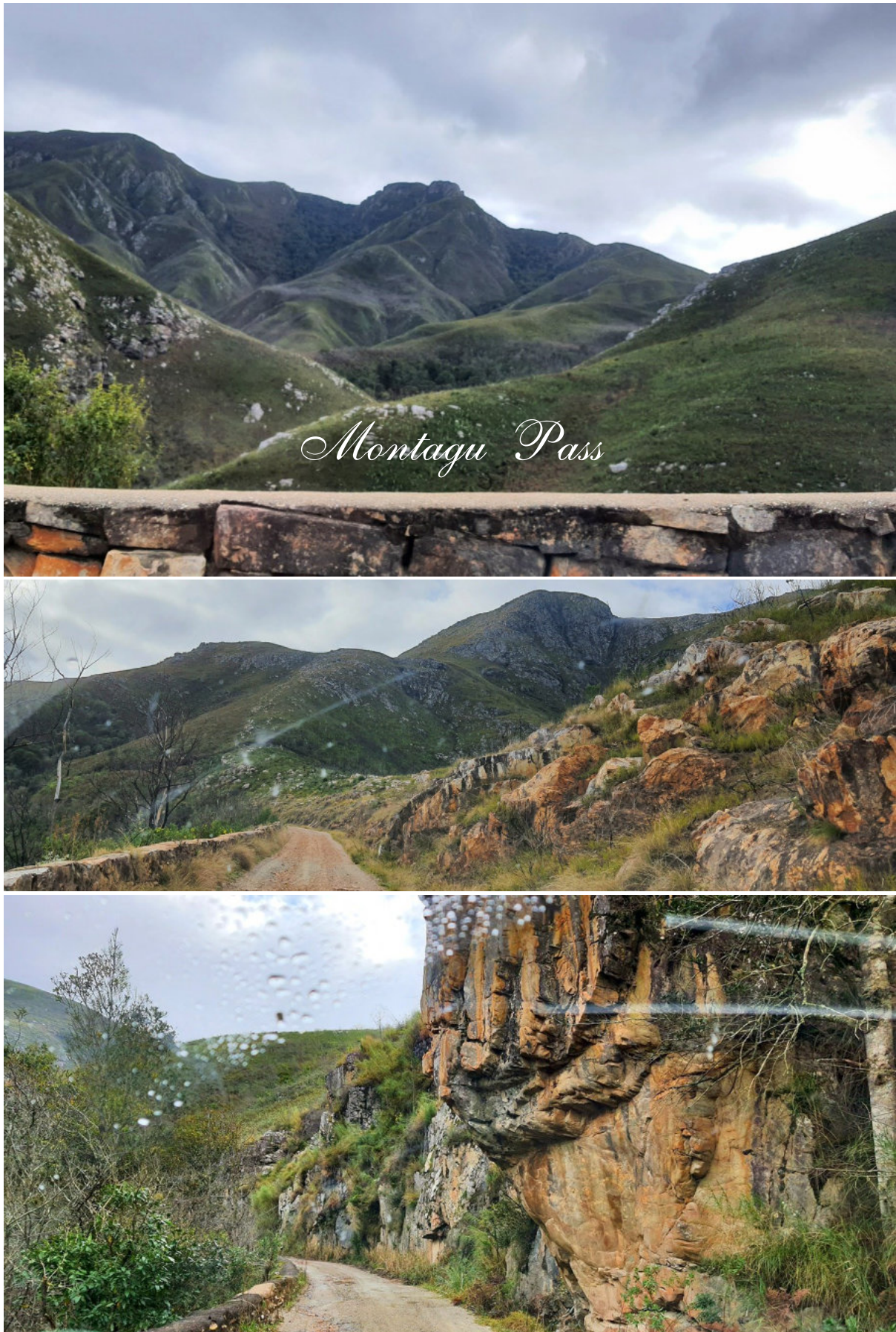
Kouga Mountains

Tsitsikamma Mountains

Forest coastal Mountains

Robinson Pass: R328 - Mossel Bay to Oudtshoorn.

Slanghoek Mountains



Western Cape Province Overview

Bainskloof Pass: On the R301, northeast of Wellington, into the Tulbach Valley.






Houhoek Mountains

Houwhoek Pass

Bot River: 34 passes were engineered by Andrew Geddes Bain and his son, Thomas.

Rivers and dams

Dams on Table Mountain: All are located on the Disa River.

-  Woodhead Dam
-  Hely-Hutchinson Dam
-  De Villiers Dam
-  Victoria Dam
-  Alexandra Dam

Olifants: Witsenberg and Skurweberg Mountains north of Ceres.

Clanwilliam and Stompdrif Dams

Stompdrif: De Rust, East of Oudtshoorn.

Sout

Verlorenvlei

Klein Berg: Controls the water delivered from Berg River.

Voëlvlei Dam: Off-channel storage - including Klein Bergrivier and 24 other streams. South of Gouda.

Berg (Laaipelek/Velddrif): Confluence with Franschhoek and Wemmershoek rivers. Hottentots Holland Mountains/Drakenstein Mountains

Berg River Dam/Skuifraam Dam (Franschhoek): Highest concrete-faced rock-filled dam wall in South Africa.

Doring

Leeu and Gamka

Nuweveld Mountains

Leeu-Gamka Dam: North of Leeu-Gamka.

Gamka and Dwyka confluence

Nuweveld Mountains

Gamkapoort Dam: Southwest of Prince Albert/north of Calitzdorp.

Buffalo River becomes Groot River: Joins Touws River, and eventually Gouritz.

Floriskraal Dam on Buffalo River: South of Laingsburg.

Hex

Breë/Breede River

Brandvlei Dam Kwaggaskloof Dam

Steenbras: Steenbras Dam (supply water to Cape Town). Grabouw/Western side of Hottentots Holland.

Bot (below the Houwhoek pass): The Bot River rises south of the Theewaterskloof Dam.

Wemmershoek: In the mountains of Franschhoek.

Wemmershoek Dam

Palmiet River

Kogelberg Dam

Riversonderend

Theewaterskloof: The scheme regulates the flow of Riviersonderend, Berg and Eerste Rivers. **Main supply to Cape Town.**




Villiersdorp

Great and Little Brak

Gouritz

Keurbooms

Major lagoons/lakes

-  Verlorenvlei (Elands Bay) - One of the country's largest freshwater lakes.
-  Langebaan lagoon - (Ramsar protected wetland).
-  Knysna lake.

Climate

The Province experiences a wide range of temperatures and rainfall. This is mainly due to the influence of the warm current (known as Agulhas) of the Indian Ocean and the cold Benguela current of the Atlantic. The variation in topography also plays a role. The Western Cape falls within a Mediterranean climate with cool, wet winters and dry, warm summers. Snow is a common sight in the higher regions and mountains during winter.

Along the Garden Route, the weather is temperate, with cool winters and milder summers. The Karoo is characterised by extremely hot summers with infrequent thunderstorms. The winters in the interior are very cold.

		January max	January min	June max	June min	Annual rainfall
📍	Cape Town	26°C	16°C	18°C	7°C	515mm
📍	George	25°C	15°C	19°C	7°C	715mm



Mossel Bay along the route is said to have the second mildest climate in the world (Hawaii is considered the best).

Economy

The Western Cape's total GDP for 2008 was R268bn, making the Province the joint 2nd largest contributor to the country's total GDP, at 14%. It also has one of the fastest-growing economies in the country, growing at 4% in 2008. At 19.3%, the Province has a substantially lower unemployment rate than the national average of 20% in 2018.

The biggest sector in the Western Cape's economy is the financial, business services and real Estate sectors contributing approximately R77 billion in 2008. Manufacturing was the second largest contributor, valued at R43.7 billion in 2008. The agricultural sector grew fastest at 10.6% in the same year. High-tech industries, international call centres, fashion design, advertising and TV production are niche industries rapidly gaining in importance. Cape Town is ranked as the most entrepreneurial city in South Africa, with early-stage entrepreneurial activity being 190% greater than South Africa's national average.



Just east of Cape Agulhas, Africa's southernmost point lies the small coastal town of Struisbaai, the capital of near-shore boat angling in the Western Cape, served by a small but functional harbour.

Agriculture

Valleys between the mountains:

- Apples
- Grapes
- Olives
- Oranges
- Peaches

Eastern Region: A great variety of vegetables are grown.

Swarthland (Malmesbury) Overberg

- Wheat growing.
- Rooibos Tea ('Red Bush Tea') in the Clanwilliam area. Widely used as a herbal tea in most households across South Africa. It is exported to various countries worldwide.

Karoo (Beaufort West) Overberg (Bredasdorp)

- Wool
- Mutton
- Pedigree merino breeding stock

Horses

The country's only Province with an outlet for the export of horses. It generates millions in foreign revenue.

Ostrich (mainly around Oudtshoorn in the Little Karoo)

Fishing

The plankton-rich Cold Benguela current flows along the Province's west coast, attracting much sea life. It is considered to be one of the world's richest fishing grounds.

Exports to Europe include:

- ✿ Abalone
- ✿ Beef
- ✿ Bokkoms
- ✿ Broiler chickens
- ✿ Calamari
- ✿ Cape lobster
- ✿ Dairy products
- ✿ Eggs
- ✿ Feathers
- ✿ Leatherwear
- ✿ Meat
- ✿ Mussels
- ✿ Octopus
- ✿ Oysters
- ✿ Snoek



Ostriches in Oudtshoorn

Industries and manufacturing sections

Cape Town is the Province's economic hub encompassing industrial areas such as Epping, Montagu Gardens, Parow and Retreat. The Province is home to the majority of the country's petroleum Companies. The largest segment of the printing and publishing industry.

The textile and clothing industry

This is the main industry and used to employ some 170 000 people. However, the industry is facing many challenges these days. Cheaper products imported from China are among the main reasons for the industry's decline.

Wine Industry

95% of the wine produced in South Africa is produced in the Western Cape. South Africa is the 7th largest wine-producing region in the world.



Wine routes are popular in the Western Cape.

Saldanha steel project

Increased economic activity along the West Coast.

Emerging industries

Includes fashion designs, TV productions, High-Tec Industries and International Call Centers.

Financial section

Many of South Africa's major insurance companies and banks are based in the Western Cape.



A road in Oudtshoorn

Tourism

The Tourism sector has also shown a substantial increase in foreign visitors. Cape Town, the Winelands, and Garden Route remain popular destinations. The Cango Caves and Cango Wildlife Ranch in Oudtshoorn are popular tourist attractions.



Inside the incredible Cango Caves

Infrastructure

Airports

- ✿ Cape Town International
- ✿ George

Ports

- ✿ Cape Town
- ✿ Mossel Bay
- ✿ Saldanha

Infrastructure - preparation

- ✿ Green Point Stadium
- ✿ Transport facilities
- ✿ Doubling the capacity of the CT Convention Centre
- ✿ Building at least six new hotels

Koeberg

R184 million was spent upgrading taxi ranks, public transport routes, and paths for bicycles, pedestrians and disability access. R2.8 billion was invested in improving the Province's roads (104 623km). R252.1 million was invested in health and education infrastructure. The above investments and improvements were made between 2004 and 2008.

Main routes and scenic drives

N1

Cape Town, leaving the Province at Three Sisters, en route to Johannesburg and Musina, South Africa's most northern town.

N2 (Garden Route)

Cape Town, along the 'Garden Route, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal Coast.

N12

George to Three Sisters.

R27

The West Coast Road. It turns off the N1 at Paarde Eiland. It continues along the West Coast up to Velddrif.

Wine Routes

Swartland, Tulbach, Wellington, Worcester, Bredekloof, Constantia, Darling, Durbanville, Franschhoek, Klein Karoo, Olifantsriver, Oranjerivier, Paarl, Robertson, Stellenbosch.

Brandy Route (R62)

Includes towns such as Barrydale, Calitzdorp, Oudtshoorn, Robertson, Worcester, Oudtshoorn, Somerset West, Paarl, Wellington, Stellenbosch, Grabouw. Some of the more famous cellars are KWV House of Brandy and Klipdrift Distillery ('Met eish ja!'). A few years ago, a top-notch advert promoted Klipdrift brandy on South African television. It featured a very helpful chap called Frikkie. The phrase 'Met eish ja!' stuck with many South Africans and is still a popular saying today. You can see the original and very amusing advert here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzKgDFlae0U

***Ghoema Route (R44)**

It is aimed at the development of Culture and Wine tourism. It stretches from the Overberg over the Winelands (including the Paarl Valley) to the West Coast along the R44. *The Ghoema is a musical instrument (drum) made originally by the enslaved people in the Cape.

Chapman's Peak Drive

Between Noordhoek and Houtbay, along the Atlantic Coast. One of the most spectacular marine drives. 114 curves. 9km long.