



The Ultimate Guide

CAPE WEST COAST

South Africa

Ruthie Betts



Paternoster



AfriCamps at de Pakhuys



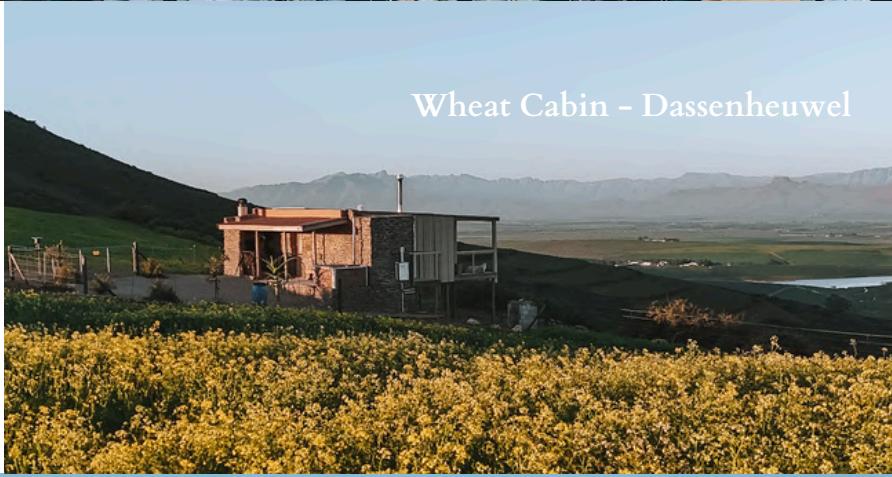
Namaqua Flower Beach Camp



Club Mykonos Resort



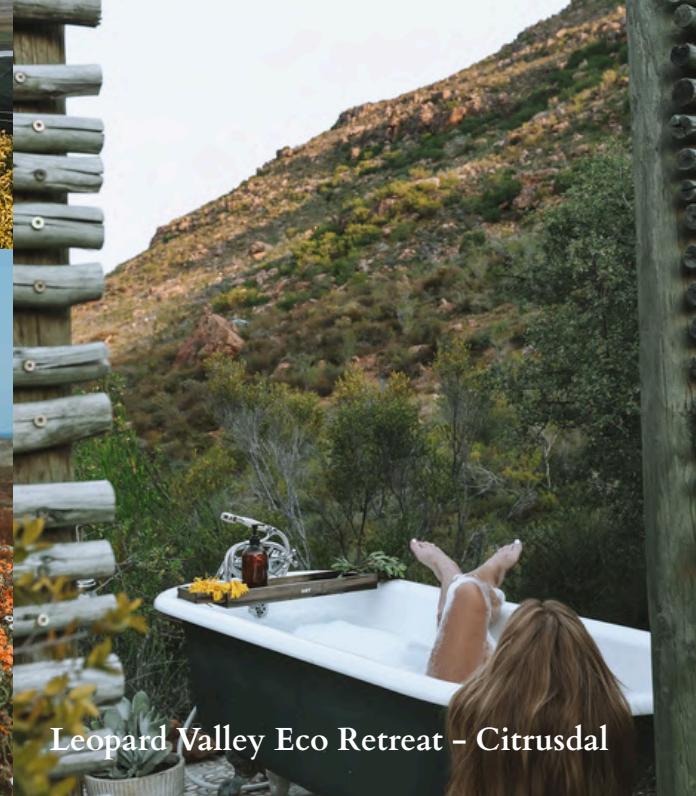
Balie's Gat, Op-Die-Berg



Wheat Cabin - Dassenheuwel



West Coast National Park



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Cape West Coast Guide

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Cape West Coast Guide

Cape West Coast, South Africa



Grootvlei Guest Farm - Lamberts Bay

Welcome to the Cape West Coast Guidebook!

We're so thrilled you've chosen to explore this wild and captivating stretch of South Africa, and we're truly honoured to be your guides along the way. The Cape West Coast has a rhythm all its own - where fishing villages meet endless beaches, wildflowers burst into colour, and seafood is served as fresh as the ocean breeze.

Over our years of travelling full-time, we've explored coastlines all over the world, yet there's something about the West Coast that keeps calling us back. Perhaps it's the way time slows down here, or the warmth of the communities, or those magical spring months when the landscape transforms into a painter's palette of blooms. Whatever it is, we're certain you'll feel it too.

Stretching from Yzerfontein in the south to the remote beaches of Namaqua in the north, the Cape West Coast is a region of contrasts - calm turquoise lagoons, rugged cliffs, charming towns, and vast nature reserves.

Whether you're here for the flower season, to savour the seafood, to camp under the stars, or to simply breathe in the salty air, this guide will help you make the most of it.

Here's a glimpse of what's to come:

- Accommodation & Food: Our hand-picked stays, from beachfront cottages to cosy guesthouses, plus the best spots for local dining and coffee.
- Hiking & Outdoors: Trails for all levels, scenic viewpoints, and our favourite beaches.
- Wildlife & Nature: From whales and birdlife to the iconic West Coast blooms.
- Travel Tips: Practical advice on navigating the coast, budgeting, and packing smart.
- Sustainability: How to travel responsibly and leave the West Coast just as you found it.

So brew a coffee (or pour a glass of West Coast wine), settle in, and let's start planning your adventure.

Cape West Coast Guide

Meet Your Guides: Josh and Ruthie Betts

Hi there! We're Josh and Ruthie Betts, better known online as [@life_of_betts](#), and we're absolutely thrilled to be your guides on this Cape West Coast adventure. Thanks for choosing us ❤️

For the past four years, we've been travelling full-time, exploring every corner of South Africa and beyond. Along the way, we've uncovered countless hidden gems, from tiny fishing villages to breathtaking nature reserves. The Cape West Coast has a special pull for us –its salty air, endless horizons, and the way the light hits the ocean at sunset keep drawing us back.

Travel is our greatest passion, and helping others experience it to the fullest is what we love most. With our knack for finding incredible stays, mapping out unforgettable routes, and tracking down the best local coffee (very important), we're here to help you make the most of your journey.

This guide isn't just a list of places –it's a collection of experiences we've tried, loved, and can't wait for you to enjoy too. So, pack your sense of adventure, and let's explore one of South Africa's most unique and beautiful coastlines together.



SPRINGBOK / NAMIBIA ↑



CAPE TOWN ↓

The Right to Roam & Traceless Tourism

The Right to Roam

South Africa is a land of wide-open spaces, wild coastlines, and incredible biodiversity – but unlike some countries where the “right to roam” is guaranteed, most land here is privately owned or managed. That means many of those stunning landscapes you see are on private farms, in nature reserves, or within protected areas. Respecting property boundaries, asking for permission, and following local rules is essential.

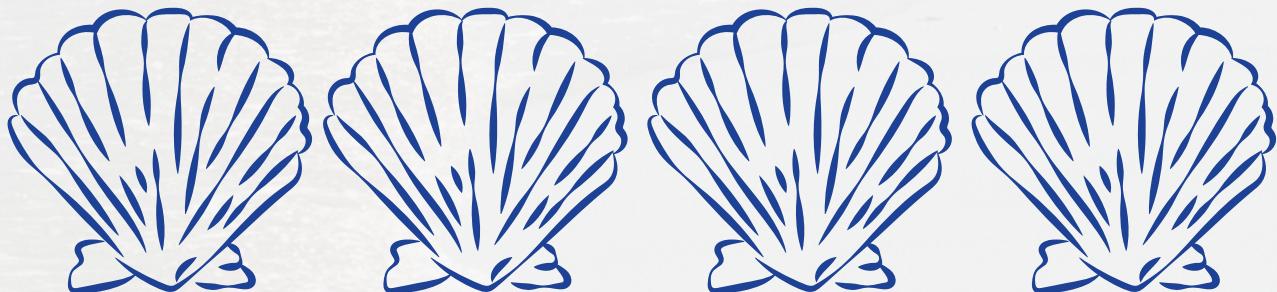
Fortunately, the Cape West Coast is blessed with an abundance of national parks, nature reserves, and public trails where you can roam freely and responsibly. From the West Coast National Park to Namaqua National Park, there are countless opportunities to experience the coast’s beauty without trespassing. Stick to marked paths, follow signage, and take time to connect with the land in a way that honours its heritage and protects its ecology. For many parts of the West Coast, SANParks and CapeNature are the custodians of these natural areas. They maintain trails, campsites, and facilities that make exploring both safe and rewarding. Check their websites or local offices for up-to-date info on permits, entry fees, and bookings.

Traceless Tourism in the Western Cape

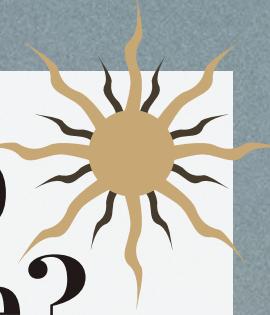
The Western Cape’s beauty is as fragile as it is spectacular. Practising traceless tourism means doing everything you can to leave the environment exactly as you found it – or even better. Carry your rubbish out with you, avoid picking flowers or plants, and keep a respectful distance from wildlife.

When hiking or camping, stick to designated trails and established campsites to reduce erosion and protect habitats. In flower season, take photos from paths rather than walking through blooms. Small actions add up: bring a reusable water bottle, say no to single-use plastics, and choose eco-conscious accommodation wherever possible.

The Cape West Coast’s biodiversity is unique in the world. By treading lightly, we can help ensure its magic is preserved for generations to come.



Seasons / When to Travel, and Where?



Summer (December - February)

Long sunny days and warm water make summer ideal for beach days, swimming, kayaking, and coastal hikes. However, this is also the windiest time of year, with the prevailing South-Easter often picking up in the afternoons. It's great for kite- and windsurfing but can be challenging for long, lazy beach days. Expect peak-season prices and busier beaches - booking ahead is essential.

Autumn (March - May)

One of our favourite times to visit. The weather is still warm but the wind calms considerably, and the crowds thin out. It's perfect for lazy beach days, seafood feasts, and long scenic drives. Autumn sunsets on the West Coast are some of the best you'll see, with glowing skies over glassy lagoons.

Winter (June - August)

Winter here can be a revelation. The wind is often lighter than in summer, with calmer spells between cold fronts, making it surprisingly pleasant for exploring. Cooler weather and occasional rain bring a quiet, rugged beauty to the coast. Whale watching is at its peak, accommodation is often discounted, and the seafood is sensational. Cosy evenings by a fire in a sea-facing cottage are hard to beat.

Spring (September - November)

Spring is wildflower season - the most iconic time to visit. The landscapes explode into colour, especially from late August through September, and the weather begins to warm up. Towns like Darling, Hopefield, and areas within the West Coast National Park become a photographer's dream. Wind can pick up later in spring, but early September is often calm.

Wildflower Season (Overview)

We've created a dedicated [Mini Wildflower Guide](#) for in-depth tips, but here's a quick look: Peak bloom usually happens between late August and early September, starting in the north and moving south. Prime spots include Namaqua National Park, Postberg within the West Coast National Park, Darling, and Hopefield. For the best displays, visit mid-morning to early afternoon when flowers are open, and always stick to paths to protect the blooms.

Cape West Coast Guide Digital Tools

Offline Maps are a Must

The Cape West Coast has long, wild stretches with patchy signal –especially in nature reserves, remote beaches, and smaller towns. Before you head out, download offline maps via [Google Maps](#) or [Maps.me](#). Mark key spots like fuel stations, accommodation, favourite cafés, and trailheads so you'll always know where you're going, even off the grid.

Loadshedding Solutions

South Africa's scheduled power outages can sneak up on you if you're not prepared. The [EskomSePush](#) app is a lifesaver –it'll give you up-to-date loadshedding schedules for your exact location so you can plan around them. Keep a portable power bank or solar charger handy, especially if you're camping or staying somewhere remote.

Hiking Apps

If you're hitting the trails, [AllTrails](#) is brilliant for detailed route maps, difficulty ratings, and reviews. The West Coast is full of short coastal walks, fynbos trails, and wildflower routes –having offline trail maps can make your adventures stress-free.

Campsite Resources

Planning to pitch a tent or park your camper? [iOverlander.com](#) and [Camping SA](#) are packed with campsite info, including facilities, reviews, and GPS coordinates –handy for finding that perfect seaside spot.

Weather Updates

The West Coast weather can flip from sunny and still to windy and chilly in an afternoon. The [WeatherSA](#) app (or even your phone's native weather app) will help you stay ahead of changing conditions. Always check before a hike or water activity, and stash a windbreaker or raincoat in your pack just in case.

Wildlife & Birding Apps

From black harriers to dolphins, the Cape West Coast is a nature-lover's paradise. iNaturalist and BirdPro make it easy to identify the birds, plants, and marine life you encounter. They're also fun to use for logging your sightings.

Cape West Coast Guide Budget

Accommodation Costs

- Budget-Friendly Options: Camping sites, backpacker lodges, and simple self-catering cottages start from R250-R500 per person per night.
- Mid-Range Stays: Guesthouses, B&Bs, and small boutique hotels usually cost R900-R1,800 per room per night.
- Luxury Escapes: 5-star lodges, beachfront villas, or high-end wine estate stays can range from R3,000-R8,000+ per night, often including gourmet meals, wine tastings, and private activities.

Activity Costs

- Low-Cost Adventures: Many of the West Coast's treasures are free or very affordable -think beach days, coastal hikes, wildflower viewing, or exploring small fishing villages. Entry to reserves is often R50-R100 per person.
- Mid-Range Fun: Activities like guided kayaking, boat trips, and cultural tours are generally R300-R800 per person.
- High-End Experiences: Private wine tours, deep-sea fishing charters, or luxury nature safaris can range from R1,500-R4,000+ per person.

Food and Drink

- Budget Eats: Groceries for self-catering average R100-R200 per day, while quick takeaway or café meals cost around R50-R150.
- Mid-Range Dining: Expect to pay R180-R350 per person for hearty meals at local restaurants.
- Fine Dining: Tasting menus at top coastal or wine estate restaurants can range from R500-R1,200 per person, often with wine pairings.

Transport

- Car Hire: Essential for exploring, with rentals starting at R400-R650 per day, excluding fuel.
- Fuel Costs: Plan for R800-R1,500+ depending on your route and distance covered.
- Tolls: There are very few along the West Coast, but budget R50-R100 just in case.

Daily Budget Estimates

- Budget Traveller: R500-R900 per day
- Comfort-Seeker: R1,300-R2,500 per day
- Luxury Explorer: R4,500+ per day

Cape West Coast Guide

Packing List

Clothing Essentials

- Layer Up: The West Coast weather can shift quickly, so bring lightweight layers for daytime and warmer clothing for cooler mornings and evenings. A fleece or windbreaker is a must.
- Activewear: Comfortable clothing for hiking, walking, and outdoor adventures. Quick-drying fabrics are ideal.
- Rain Gear: Even in summer, occasional showers can appear -a compact waterproof jacket or poncho will save the day.
- Swimwear: For beaches, tidal pools, or a dip in a lagoon.

Footwear

- Comfortable hiking boots or trail shoes for coastal paths and nature reserves.
- Sandals or flip-flops for beaches.
- Casual sneakers or flats for strolling through towns or markets.
- Hat & Sunglasses.

Outdoor & Adventure Gear

- Daypack: For hikes or day trips, with compartments for water and snacks.
- Reusable Water Bottle: Stay hydrated and eco-conscious.
- Binoculars: Perfect for birdwatching or spotting marine life.
- Headlamp or Flashlight: Useful for camping or during loadshedding.
- Quick-Drying Towel: Handy for beaches or overnight trips.

Tech & Navigation

- Phone & Charger: For navigation, photos, and contact.
- Power Bank: Essential for loadshedding or long days outdoors.
- Offline Maps: Download via Google Maps or Maps.me before heading out.
- Camera or GoPro: Capture the landscapes, wildlife, and wildflowers.
- Universal Adapter: For international travellers.

Toiletries & Health

- Sunscreen: High SPF recommended.
- Bug Spray: Especially useful for evenings near water.
- First Aid Kit: Include plasters, painkillers, antihistamines, and antiseptic cream.
- Personal Toiletries: Toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, etc.

Documents & Essentials

- ID or Passport: Keep copies handy.
- Park Permits & Tickets: Digital copies are ideal.
- Cash: Some small businesses may not accept cards.

Extras to Consider

- Snacks like energy bars or trail mix for hikes and road trips.
- Books, a Kindle, or other entertainment.
- Eco-Friendly Bags for shopping or carrying wet gear.

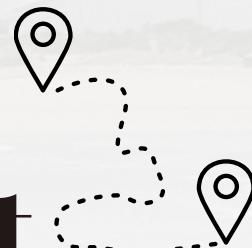


Seasonal Add-Ons

- Winter (June-August): Heavier jacket, gloves, and a beanie for chilly mornings and evenings.
- Summer (December-February): Rash guard, sun umbrella, snorkelling gear, and extra beachwear.

Cape West Coast Guide

Navigating the Cape West Coast



Airport: Your Gateway to the West Coast

For those flying in, Cape Town International Airport is the most convenient option for exploring the Cape West Coast. From there, it's an easy drive north to towns like Langebaan, Paternoster, or the West Coast National Park. For the northern parts of the coast, you could also fly into Upington Airport if you plan to explore the more remote Namaqualand regions and then rent a car to reach your destinations.

Self-Drive: Ultimate Freedom

The best way to experience the West Coast is by car. Renting a vehicle gives you the flexibility to explore hidden beaches, stop for wildlife or wildflower photos, and travel at your own pace.

- Car Hire: Available at major airports and towns like Cape Town, rates start from R400-R650 per day, excluding fuel. Choose a reliable vehicle with decent ground clearance if you plan on venturing onto gravel roads or nature reserve tracks.
- Fuel Costs: Petrol stations are common in towns, but it's smart to fill up before heading into more remote areas.

Public Transport: Limited Options

Public transport exists but isn't the easiest for exploring the coast. Minibus taxis operate locally but can be unreliable and confusing for tourists. Ride-hailing apps like Bolt work in larger towns such as Langebaan or Paternoster but may not always be available. If driving isn't your preference, several reputable shuttle services operate along the Cape West Coast, offering reliable transfers and guided experiences:

- **West Coast Shuttle Service**

A fully licensed and insured operator based in Vredenburg, providing airport transfers, local rides, and private charters across towns like Langebaan, Paternoster, and Saldanha.

- **West Coast Link Shuttle Service**

Serving the Western Cape, this company offers shuttle and tourism services, including transfers to and from Cape Town International Airport.

- **Shuttles Cape Town**

Specializes in private transfers from Cape Town to destinations like Langebaan, providing door-to-door services tailored to your schedule.

Cycling & Walking

For eco-conscious travellers or those wanting to take it slower:

- **Cycling:** The West Coast has scenic cycling routes through the West Coast National Park and surrounding towns. Bring your own bike or rent locally.
- **Walking:** Towns like Paternoster and Langebaan have pedestrian-friendly areas, and many reserves offer short, marked trails to explore on foot.



Grootvlei Guest Farm - Lamberts Bay

Cape West Coast Guide Wildlife & Animals

One of the most magical parts of exploring the Cape West Coast is the abundance of wildlife. From free-roaming creatures you might spot along the roadside to the incredible marine life and well-managed reserves, the region offers plenty of opportunities for memorable encounters.

Free-Roaming Wildlife

Drive through Yzerfontein, and you'll likely spot ostriches wandering freely through the fynbos and even along quiet residential roads - a truly unique sight that adds to the town's charm. Dassies (rock hyrax), tortoises, and small antelope like steenbok and duiker are also often spotted near the coastline and in the reserves. Birdlife is especially rich in the wetlands around Langebaan and the West Coast National Park, with flamingos, pelicans, and countless waders making regular appearances.

Marine Life

The Atlantic Ocean along the West Coast is full of surprises. Every year between June and November, southern right whales migrate to the coastline, and if you're lucky, you may also spot humpback whales breaching offshore. Dolphins often play in the surf, Cape fur seals bask on the rocks, and in calmer bays you might even spot shy otters slipping into the water. Bring binoculars and keep your camera handy - sightings often happen when you least expect them!

National Parks & Reserves

The West Coast National Park is the crown jewel of the region, protecting unique fynbos landscapes and wildlife like eland, kudu, bontebok, and zebra. It's also one of the best birdwatching destinations in South Africa, particularly around the Langebaan Lagoon.

If you're travelling inland along the N7 route, you'll find a number of excellent game reserves offering more traditional safari experiences. These include:

- Buffelsfontein Game & Nature Reserve (near Yzerfontein) - Home to giraffe, buffalo, and a wide variety of plains game, with guided drives available.
- Thali Thali Game Lodge (Langebaan) - A family-friendly reserve with wildlife like kudu, zebra, ostrich, and springbok.
- Namaqua National Park (further north) - Famous for its wildflowers, but also home to hardy species like klipspringer, caracal, and bat-eared foxes.

Together, the parks and reserves of the Cape West Coast showcase the incredible diversity of South Africa's ecosystems, from the ocean's giants to the smallest veld creatures.

Now that we've covered all our bases
let's get started

Grootvlei Guest Farm - Lamberts Bay

Little Footprints

Family Friendly Stays



The Koringhuis at AA Badenhorst Family Wines - Malmesbury

The oldest and most peaceful dwelling on the farm, The Koringhuis is a lovingly restored home from the late 1700s that blends rustic luxury with historic charm. With its thick stone walls, private lounges, and a stoep overlooking the mountains and dam, it's the perfect mix of farm-style living and relaxed comfort.

- Price: R6,000 per night (10 people)
- Sleeps: 10 (3 bedrooms, each with private bathroom & lounge)
- Features: Front stoep with mountain & dam views, shared kitchen & dining area, private pool, braai, fireplace, outdoor dining, kids' amenities (cot, highchair, books, toys), board games
- Pet Friendly: Yes 
- Extra Note: Smaller cottages are also available on the farm, perfect for couples or smaller groups looking for a romantic getaway.

Arnelia House - Langebaan

Arnelia House is the kind of place where you instantly feel at home. This double-storey gem has a private garden filled with proteas, loads of space for the kids to play, and a deck that looks out over the Langebaan lagoon. It's perfect for family braais, lazy mornings with coffee, and sunset strolls down to the beach.

- Price: From R2,500 per night (2025) / From R3,000 per night (2026) - entire home (excl. peak season & Easter)
- Sleeps: 6 (3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms)
- Features: Lagoon views, private garden, outside deck, braai room, fully equipped kitchen, lounge, inverter, free Wi-Fi, workspace, safe, parking, security system
- Pet Friendly: No.

Little Footprints

Family Friendly Stays



Bekkie - Paternoster

Bekkie is the ultimate family or group escape in Paternoster, with space for up to 8 guests across 4 bedrooms. Set right on Bekbaai cove, you're only a few steps from a pristine beach where you can wander towards Tietiesbaai or stroll into the heart of Paternoster for coffee, fresh bread, and world-class restaurants. The house itself is airy and stylish, with big windows framing endless ocean views -perfect for sunset dinners, lazy mornings, and quality time together.

- Sleeps: 8 (4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms)
- Rates (2025-26): From R6,200 low season - R9,625 high season (per night, entire home)
- Features: Beachfront, sea views, deck, open-plan living, braai facilities, fully equipped kitchen, dining and lounge areas, Wi-Fi, parking
- Pet Friendly: No.

Coral Tree Cottage - The Cottage Collection (Family Friendly)

Beautifully designed two-bedroom retreat perfect for a serene coastal getaway. This charming home features a splash pool, open-plan modern kitchen, cozy lounge with fireplace and Smart TV, and a large dining area opening onto a terrace with a built-in braai. Both bedrooms boast extra-large king-size beds and luxurious en-suite bathrooms with indoor and outdoor showers, making it perfect for families or small groups.

- Sleeps: 4 people.
- Rates (2025-26): R4400 per night for 4 people.
- Features: Splash pool, private terrace, built-in braai, fully equipped kitchen, lounge with fireplace and Smart TV, en-suite bathrooms, extra-large king beds, child-friendly options
- Pet Friendly: No. (other cottages in the collection may allow pets)

Little Footprints

Family Friendly Stays



In The Valley - Clanwilliam (Family Friendly / Nature Lovers)

Tucked between the Cederberg mountains and the rugged West Coast, In The Valley is a beautifully restored farmhouse that's all about slowing down and reconnecting with nature. With space for 4 guests (plus an optional 5th), it's perfect for families or friends looking for a peaceful escape on a working rooibos farm.

Mornings are best spent with coffee on the stoep, afternoons hiking or cycling through the valley, and evenings soaking in the wood-fired hot tub under a blanket of stars. Inside, you'll find everything from a fully equipped kitchen and cozy lounge with Netflix to a dedicated workspace and fast Wi-Fi.

- Sleeps: 4 (2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, +1 guest on request)
- Rates: From R1,920 per night (entire home)
- Features: Wood-fired hot tub, braai, stoep with valley views, Wi-Fi, Smart TV with Netflix, workspace, hiking & cycling, catch-and-release fishing dam, laundry facilities, full kitchen
- Pet Friendly: No.

Sunset-Sea - Jacobsbaai (Family Friendly / Pet Friendly)

Sunset-Sea is a dreamy beachfront escape in Jacobsbaai's Mauritzbaai, where sea views, fresh ocean air, and a solar-heated splash pool set the tone for relaxed family holidays.

With space for 8 guests across 4 bedrooms, this thatched-roof beach house is as cozy as it is spacious -complete with indoor and outdoor braai areas, a farmhouse-style kitchen, and a deck made for sundowners. Kids will love exploring the rock pools right in front of the house, while adults can enjoy gin & tonics on the deck or fireside evenings inside. Add in uncapped Wi-Fi, Netflix, and pet-friendly stays (by arrangement), and you've got one of the West Coast's most inviting homes for a seaside getaway.

- Sleeps: 8 (4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms - 2 en-suite)
- Rates: R3,700-R7,000 per night (season dependent, min. 7 nights in high season)
- Features: Sea-front, solar-heated splash pool, braai (indoor & outdoor), deck with sea views, fully equipped kitchen, lounge with fireplace, DSTV & Netflix, inverter backup power, pet-friendly on request (+R500)
- Pet Friendly: Yes  (by arrangement, extra fee)



Sunset-Sea - Jacobsbaai



Dagdromer - Jacobsbaai (Family Friendly / Group)

Perched on a koppie with sweeping views of Jacobsbaai, Dagdromer is a self-catering hideaway designed for comfort, space, and good company. With 3 beautifully styled bedrooms (all en-suite), this spot is ideal for families or groups who want peace and privacy, just 2km from Daai Plekkie Restaurant and the beach.

The house ticks every box for a luxury coastal break -from the big patio with ocean views and built-in braai, to fireplaces inside for cozy nights in. You'll also find smart TVs, free Wi-Fi, a fully equipped kitchen, solar power, and all the thoughtful extras that make travel easy.

- Sleeps: 6 (3 en-suite bedrooms)
- Rates: From R3,800 out of season - R4,500 in season (per night, entire home)
- Features: Patio with sea views, built-in braai, indoor fireplace, solar electricity, Wi-Fi, Smart TVs, fully equipped kitchen, luxury linens, secure parking, housekeeping & 24hr security
- Pet Friendly: No.

Villa Fantastica - Yzerfontein (Family Friendly / Group)

Villa Fantastica lives up to its name -this landmark Yzerfontein stay is all about modern luxury, sea views, and plenty of space for making memories. Sleeping up to 8 guests, it's perfect for families or groups who want a show-stopping home base just 90 minutes from Cape Town.

Each en-suite room is themed after world cities like Santorini and Paris, and the entertainment areas are designed for long evenings together. Think: pizza oven, indoor braai, bar, hot tub, fire pits, and a sleek kitchen with everything you need. Outside, the views stretch endlessly over the Atlantic, making every sunrise and sunset a reason to celebrate.

- Sleeps: 8 (4 themed en-suite bedrooms)
- Rates: From R3,300 (low season, 1-4 people) - R13,200 (peak season, 8 people) per night
- Features: Sea views, hot tub, pizza oven, indoor & outdoor braai, fire pits, bar, entertainment area, fully equipped modern kitchen, outdoor shower, fireplaces, stylish interiors
- Pet Friendly: No.

Little Footprints

Family Friendly Stays



Daisy Cottage - Citrusdal (Family / Nature)

A cozy two-bedroom hideaway perfect for families, couples, or anyone craving a farm escape. Daisy Cottage is all about slow mornings by the fireplace, lazy afternoons in the hot tub, and evenings under the stars. Just a short walk leads you to a waterfall and natural swimming holes – it's magical! 🌟

- Sleeps: 4 (2 bedrooms, 3 beds)
- Rates: R2,500 – R3,500 per night
- Features: Fireplace, hot tub, shared pool, braai area, private entrance, terrace with garden views, fully equipped kitchen, nearby hiking trails, fishing dam, ancient Khoisan rock art
- Pet Friendly: Yes 🐾

47 on Waterkant - Velddrif (Couple / Family)

Set along the Berg River, just minutes from the foodie hotspot of Bokkomlaan, 47 on Waterkant is the perfect base for a West Coast getaway. Choose between a cozy studio for two or the spacious main house for six – both with everything you need for an easy, relaxed stay. Think morning coffee riverside, afternoons by the pool, and evenings braaiing under big skies.

- Price: From R935 per night (for 2 people)
- Sleeps: Studios (2 guests each) or Main House (6 guests)
- Features: Fully equipped kitchen, lounge, braai area, swimming pool (main house only).
- Best for: Couples, groups, and families looking for a riverside escape.
- Pet friendly: Yes 🐾.

Nearby: Bokkomlaan restaurants & coffee shops, Dwarskersbos beach (12 km), and day trips to Langebaan, Paternoster, Jacobsbaai & Vredenburg.

Dreamy Destinations

Romantic Getaways

Wheat Cabin - Dassenheuwel (Romantic Getaway / Nature Lovers)

Escape to the tranquility of Porceleinberg at Wheat Cabin, a secluded, stylish off-grid hideaway for two. With sweeping 180° views of the valley, golden canola fields, and over 130 species of birds, this cabin is a nature lover's dream. Enjoy the king-size bed, ensuite bathroom, hot tub, fireplace, and outdoor braai while soaking in the breathtaking scenery.

- Sleeps: 2 (1 bedroom, 1 bath)
- Rates: From R2,750 per night (minimum 2 nights)
- Features: Hot tub, wood-fired indoor fireplace, hammock, outdoor braai, fully equipped kitchenette, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, hairdryer
- Pet Friendly: No.

Gonana Guesthouse - Paternoster (Romantic Getaway / Pet Friendly)

Set just 150m from Bekbaai beach, Gonana Guesthouse offers eco-conscious self-catering houses with stunning sea views. The Aloe and Acacia Houses are solar-powered and serviced daily, blending comfort with sustainability. Each home has a full kitchen, undercover braai, and cosy living spaces - perfect for sunset watching and morning coffee by the ocean.

- Sleeps: 2 adults (plus 1 child on sofa bed; R300 extra for third person)
- Rates: From R2,150 per night (2 adults)
- Features: Full kitchen, gas hob, undercover braai, solar-powered, fenced garden, outdoor shower, daily servicing, optional breakfast (R175 per person)
- Pet Friendly: Small pets allowed  (R200 per pet)

La Baleine - Paternoster (Romantic / Pet Friendly)

Just steps from the pristine beach and a short stroll to the Paternoster Waterfront, La Baleine Beach House Collection offers bright, airy self-catering homes with breathtaking sea views. Each unit features beautifully appointed bedrooms and bathrooms, premium linens, fully equipped kitchens, and a lounge with a smart TV and DSTV (Netflix included). Step onto your private patio with braai facilities, enjoy direct beach access, and soak up the authentic West Coast charm.

- Sleeps: 2-4 per unit (depending on house/studio)
- Rates: From R2,650 per night
- Features: Private patio, braai facilities, fully equipped kitchen, smart TV with DSTV & Netflix, premium linens, Wi-Fi, undercover parking, direct beach access, fireplaces or electric heaters in select units
- Pet Friendly: Yes 

La Baleine - Paternoster



Dreamy Destinations

Romantic Getaways

Paternoster Dunes Guesthouse - Paternoster (Romantic / Adults Only)

If you're looking for a dreamy West Coast escape, Paternoster Dunes Guesthouse nails it with minimal traffic, unbroken sea views, and private access to a patch of indigenous Strandveld leading straight to Bekbaai Beach. Each room is elegantly styled and comes with percale cotton linens, DSTV, Wi-Fi, a mini fridge, and locally sourced bathroom products. Sip afternoon tea, lounge by the courtyard pool, or enjoy breakfast with sweeping Atlantic Ocean views.

- Sleeps: 2 per room
- Rates: R300 - R400 per night (2 guests)
- Features: Breakfast included, afternoon tea, pool, lounge, beauty treatment room, air conditioning, electric blankets, tea & coffee station, mini fridge, hairdryer, private beach access
- Pet Friendly: Yes 

Kokerboom House - Vanrhynsdorp (Romantic / Heritage House)

Kokerboom House is a serene, heritage farmhouse guesthouse set amidst iconic Kokerboom trees and springtime blooms. Lovingly restored, it offers six individually styled rooms blending rustic charm with modern comfort. Enjoy scenic views of the surrounding nature, stroll to the famous Kokerboom Nursery, or simply relax on the property soaking up tranquillity.

- Sleeps: 2 per room
- Rates: From R1,500 per night (2 guests)
- Features: Scenic views, historical charm, peaceful gardens, modern amenities, Wi-Fi, tea & coffee station, hairdryer
- Pet Friendly: No.



Dreamy Destinations

Romantic Getaways

Maskam Guest Farm - Vanrhynsdorp (Family & Pet Friendly)

Nestled 10 km from Vanrhynsdorp and just off the N7, Maskam Guest Farm is a peaceful retreat perfect for travellers, botanists, and anyone wanting to unwind in nature. Set against the stunning backdrop of the Maskam and Gifberg mountains, the farm offers cosy, fully equipped cottages with breathtaking panoramic views.

- Accommodation: 3 two-bedroom cottages, 2 romantic couple cottages
- Sleeps: 2-4 (depending on cottage)
- Rates:
 - Suikerbekkie: From R570-R1120 per night (depending on season & occupancy)
- Pet Friendly: Yes  Up to 2 small dogs per unit, R50 per dog per night

Farm Activities:

- Swimming pool, walking and bicycle routes, mountain climbing
- Playground, trampoline, and farm animals for kids
- Bird watching and flower routes (springtime brings 1500+ species)
- Nearby attractions: Gifberg tours, wine tours, Kokerboom nursery, Victorian buildings, day trips to Nieuwoudtville, Clanwilliam, and Strandfontein





AfriCamps at de Pakhuys - Clanwilliam (Family Friendly / Group)

Wake up surrounded by the dramatic rock formations, waterfalls, and star-filled skies of the Cederberg at AfriCamps de Pakhuys. These luxury glamping tents offer a peaceful retreat in the heart of the Rocklands, with fully equipped kitchens, spacious living areas, and indoor fireplaces. Step outside to enjoy hiking, bouldering, and the spectacular natural surroundings.

- Sleeps: 5 per tent
- Rates: From ±R1,640 per night
- Features: Hiking, waterfalls, rock formations, braai, deck, indoor fireplace, fully equipped kitchen
- Pet Friendly: Yes 

Balie's Gat Camp & Accommodation - Op-Die-Berg (Family Friendly)

A magical glamping experience for families, complete with a private rock pool, outdoor bath, and access to waterfall pools. This secluded tented camp offers vintage Cape furniture, comfortable beds, indoor shower, gas stove, fridge/freezer, and solar lighting. Explore the surrounding kloof and fynbos trails for an unforgettable nature escape. We stayed in Oupa Tienie Tent, and loved it!

- Sleeps: 4 per tent
- Rates: From ±R1,550 per night
- Features: Private rock pool, outdoor bath, braai, hiking, waterfall pools
- Pet Friendly: No.

Kagga Kamma Nature Reserve - Cederberg (Adults Only / Romantic)

Sleep under the stars in a luxury open-air suite surrounded by fynbos and rock formations. Experience the untouched Karoo-like wilderness, star beds, and private hot tubs for a romantic escape. Modern comforts are subtly integrated to reconnect guests with nature.

- Sleeps: 2
- Rates: From ±R4,400 per couple (+R1,500 for Open-Air Suite)
- Features: Hot tub, star-bed, fynbos, total seclusion
- Pet Friendly: No.



Balie's Gat Camp & Accommodation - Op-Die-Berg



Leopard Valley Eco Retreat - Citrusdal (Couples / Small Groups)

Tucked deep in the mountains, Verreaux's Eagle eco-cabin offers sweeping valley views, a private spring-fed swimming reservoir, and a secret outdoor bathtub for starlit baths. Enjoy hiking, mountain vistas, and peaceful solitude in this solar-powered cabin.

- Sleeps: 2-4 per unit
- Rates: From R1,700 per night for two
- Features: Eco-cabin, hiking, mountain views, solar power, outdoor braai, firepit, outdoor deck
- Pet Friendly: Yes 

Grootvlei Guest Farm - Lamberts Bay (Couples / Group)

Just 6 km from Lambert's Bay, Grootvlei Guest Farm offers a mix of stays from guesthouse rooms to eco-village chalets. Highlight is On The Dunes, four shell-shaped rooms tucked into sand dunes with rustic touches, ocean views, fireplaces, and open-air showers. Perfect for sunset walks, dolphin spotting, and relaxed evenings.

- Sleeps: 2 per room (various accommodation types)
- Rates: ±R1,200-R2,000 per room per night
- Features: Beach access, ensuite bathrooms, unique design, communal lounge & kitchen, daily housekeeping, ocean views, fireplaces (select rooms)
- Pet Friendly: No.

Namaqua Flower Beach Camp - Namaqua National Park (Romantic / Couples)

Romantic beachfront glamping on the West Coast, set along the Namaqua coastline just north of the Groenrivier entrance to Namaqua National Park. Open during the flower season, this luxury tented retreat offers all meals included, private verandahs, and breathtaking ocean views. Enjoy cozy canvas tents with queen-size beds, hot bucket showers, wood-heated hot water, and daily tea and coffee baskets.

- Sleeps: 2-4
- Rates: From R8,446 per night for 2
- Features: Luxury beachfront tents, all meals included, ocean views, hot bucket showers, private verandah, wood-heated hot water, outdoor fireside seating
- Pet Friendly: No.



Namaqua Flower Beach Camp - Namaqua National Park





Sperrgebiet Lodge - Outside Springbok (Couples / Small Groups)

Set in rugged Namaqualand, Sperrgebiet Lodge offers self-catering thatched-roof units on a tranquil farm with quiver tree-covered koppies. Units include en-suite bathrooms, TV with selected DStv channels, Wi-Fi, and braai areas. Guests can enjoy the communal pool and explore hiking trails, mountain biking, birdwatching, and nearby Goegap Nature Reserve.

- Sleeps: 2-4
- Rates: From ±R1,100 per night
- Features: Self-catering units, hiking trails, mountain views, patios, communal swimming pool, quiet farm setting
- Pet Friendly: Yes 

Trekos Glamping - Jacobsbaai (Family Friendly / Group)

Unique off-grid glamping in two cozy caravans near Trekoskraal. Each caravan has a double bed and single bed, shared bathrooms, and access to a communal undercover kitchen and dining area. Outside, enjoy a wooden deck, braai, lounge with gas heater, books and games, splash pool, and sandy firepit area. Short drive to Trekoskraal Beach for swimming, fishing, and seaside braais.

- Sleeps: 6
- Rates: From ±R1,500 per night
- Features: Secluded glamping, sea views, off-grid, splash pool, outdoor firepit, communal kitchen & dining, braai facilities
- Pet Friendly: Yes 



Trekos Glamping - Jacobsbaai



Campsites We Love

Tietiesbaai - Paternoster

Rustic seaside camping inside the Cape Columbine Nature Reserve. Sites are right on the rocks and beach, with basic ablutions but no electricity. Very popular in season for its wild, untamed charm.

Website: [Cape Columbine Nature Reserve](#)

Price: From R200 per night (basic site)

Pet Friendly: No.

Yzerfontein Caravan Park - Yzerfontein

Set behind the dunes with easy access to Main Beach, this family-friendly park offers shaded stands, electricity, clean ablutions, and laundry facilities. Walking distance to shops and restaurants.

Website: [Yzerfontein Caravan Park](#)

Price: From R350 per night for 2 people

Pet Friendly: Yes 

Dwarskersbos Caravan Park - Dwarskersbos

Spacious grassy stands with electricity, ablutions, and braai facilities. Located just off the beach and known for its peaceful atmosphere.

Website: [Dwarskersbos Caravan Park](#)

Price: From R300 per night for 2 people

Pet Friendly: Yes 

Lamberts Bay Caravan Park - Lamberts Bay

Municipal-run campsite close to the beach and Bird Island. Offers basic facilities including electricity, ablutions, and braai spots. A favourite with fishermen and families.

Website: [Lamberts Bay Caravan Park](#)

Price: From R280 per night for 2 people

Pet Friendly: No.

Malkoppan Caravan Park - Lamberts Bay

Private, quieter alternative to the municipal park, with neat lawns, ocean views, and braai facilities. Ideal for a more relaxed seaside stay.

Contact Details

- Tel: 083 370 0400

Price: From R450 per night per stand

Pet Friendly: Yes 



Campsites We Love

Elands Bay Caravan Park - Elands Bay

Beachfront camping with direct surf access, basic but well-loved for its location.

Facilities include ablutions and electricity points. A hotspot for surfers and kiteboarders.

Website: [Elands Bay Caravan Park](#)

Price: From R300 per night for 2 people

Pet Friendly: No.

Strandfontein Campsite - Strandfontein

Located right by the beach and tidal pool, this campsite offers grassy stands, electricity, ablutions, and family-friendly facilities.

Contact Details

- Tel: 027 201 3437 |

Price: From R280 per night for 2 people

Pet Friendly: No.

Algeria Campsite - Cederberg (Clanwilliam)

A CapeNature campsite surrounded by dramatic mountains. Shady riverside stands with clean ablutions, braai areas, and hot showers. A top base for hikers.

Website: [CapeNature - Algeria Campsite](#)

Price: From R280 per night for 2 people

Pet Friendly: No.

Jamaka Campsite - Cederberg

Set on an organic farm, this campsite offers shady stands among citrus and mango orchards with natural rock pools nearby. Ablutions and braai facilities available.

Website: [Jamaka Campsite](#)

Price: From R360 per night for 4 people

Pet Friendly: Yes 

De Pakhuys Campsite - Rocklands (Cederberg)

Popular with climbers, this scenic site has shaded stands, ablutions, braai areas, and access to mountain trails and bouldering areas.

Website: [De Pakhuys](#)

Price: From R200 per night for 2 people

Pet Friendly: Yes 





Kagga Kamma Nature Reserve Campsites – Koue Bokkeveld

Campsites We Love

Balie's Gat - Ceres Mountains

A private farm glamping and camping site with its own waterfall pools, braai areas, and hiking trails. Rustic and family-friendly with mountain views.

Website: [Balie's Gat](#)

Price: From R700 per family (camping)

Pet Friendly: Yes  (well-behaved dogs)

Kagga Kamma Nature Reserve Campsites - Koue Bokkeveld

Remote, wild campsites set among dramatic rock formations. Ablutions are available but some sites are 4x4 access only. Stargazing here is unforgettable.

Website: [Kagga Kamma Nature Reserve](#)

Price: From R400 per site (up to 4 people)

Pet Friendly: No.

Restaurants We Love

Wolfgat - Paternoster

World-famous for good reason, Wolfgat serves a seven-course tasting menu built around foraged herbs, fresh fish, and the wild flavours of the West Coast. It's small, intimate, and feels like eating the landscape on a plate.

Insider tip: Book months ahead - they only seat 20 guests.

Leeto - Paternoster

Chef Garth Almazan creates modern coastal dishes that are both refined and rooted in the area - think fresh line fish, local game, and seasonal veg. It's contemporary without losing its soul.

Insider tip: Time it for sunset, the light over the ocean is magical. Book ahead in flower season!

The Noisy Oyster - Paternoster

One of the liveliest spots in town with a changing blackboard menu, lots of fresh seafood, and a fun atmosphere. This is where you go for a casual but excellent night out. Insider tip: Closed Sunday-Tuesday nights. Always book, especially in summer, otherwise you'll queue.

Gaaitjie Salt Water - Paternoster

Right on the rocks, Gaaitjie serves comforting, no-fuss seafood in an old fisherman's cottage. The location alone makes it special.

Restaurants We Love

Voorstrand - Paternoster

An old favourite with red tin-roof charm and reliable seafood, steaks, and Cape Malay curries. Perfect for a long, lazy lunch.

Insider tip: Go early for breakfast on the deck, it's a local ritual.

Die Strandloper - Langebaan

An all-day seafood feast on the beach - snoek, mussels, crayfish, freshly baked bread - cooked over open fires and served in a super laid-back, barefoot setting.

Insider tip: Arrive hungry and pace yourself - it's a marathon, not a sprint. **Book far in advance.**

La Petite Maison - Langebaan

Small, intimate and polished - French-inspired dishes meet West Coast produce. It's Langebaan's go-to for a special evening.

Insider tip: Weekends book out quickly; worth planning a dinner here if you love wine pairings.

Boesmanland Plaaskombuis - Langebaan

Big fires, enamel plates, and generous West Coast hospitality. Expect hearty meat, seafood, and live music nights by the lagoon.

Insider tip: Ask about their music evenings - it's a proper vibe.

Strandkombuis - Yzerfontein

A beachfront favourite known for their legendary seafood buffets and oyster feasts.

Insider tip: Book the buffet for summer weekends; Friday pizza nights are a fun, relaxed alternative.

Meeurots - Yzerfontein

Local, family-run, and always reliable - generous portions of seafood, grills, and pizza. Great for families and casual meals.

Insider tip: They do takeaways - perfect for a sunset beach picnic.

Geelbek - West Coast National Park

Set in a historic Cape Dutch farmhouse, Geelbek serves traditional Cape Malay flavours alongside fresh local seafood.

Insider tip: Pair it with a slow drive through the park - flamingos, bird hides, and lagoon views.

Restaurants We Love

!Khwa ttu Restaurant - Near Yzerfontein

San heritage meets local flavours. Expect dishes featuring indigenous plants and seasonal produce, cooked with heart.

Insider tip: Combine with their cultural tour!

Route 27 Roosterkoek - Darling (Padstal)

A roadside must-stop: hot-off-the-fire roosterkoek filled with cheese, jam, or boerewors, plus strong moerkoffie.

Insider tip: Expect queues on weekends.

De Keldery - Vredendal

Namaqua wines paired with hearty plates in the vineyards. Friendly, simple, and a good stop inland.

Insider tip: Try a tasting platter with the local wines - best value for food and wine together.

Daai Plekkie - Jacobs Bay

A real hidden gem right on the rocks - part restaurant, part padstal, part hangout. Expect homestyle cooking, great cakes, and a cosy, local feel.

Insider tip: Pop in after a walk along the Jacobs Bay coastline - their roosterkoek and calamari are just the thing.

Red Ox Steakhouse - Vanrhynsdorp

A must-visit for meat lovers, this local gem serves perfectly grilled steaks and traditional South African fare. Known for generous portions and a friendly, welcoming vibe. Best to book ahead on weekends, especially during flower season. Insider tip: try their lamb chops with a local wine pairing.

Cafés and Cute Coffee spots



Mondvol Koffiewinkel - Paternoster

Small-batch bakery and coffee counter that's quietly famous for its pastries and cookies – proper artisanal stuff that locals queue for. Come early (weekends sell out fast) and grab a sourdough or a coffee to go for the beach.

Cathy's Kitchen - Paternoster

Bright, homey spot doing excellent breakfast/brunch (their eggs-Benedict and bobotie pancake are local legends). Great for a long morning – book on busy weekends.

Rosemead Artisan Bakery - Yzerfontein

A properly brilliant artisan bakery – flaky croissants, country loaves and some of the best coffee on the route. Insider tip: arrive very early (breads and special bakes disappear) and bring a cool bag if you're taking loaves home.

Rust In Thyme Café - Yzerfontein

A warm, slightly French-leaning cafe with great cakes and a relaxed village-vibe; perfect after a morning walk on the rocks. Best for a slow brunch – weekend mornings are buzzy.

Route 27 Roosterkoek (roadside) – along the R27

Classic West Coast pit-stop: fire-grilled roosterkoek (cheese/jam) and strong coffee – perfect for a scenic coffee break while driving the coast. No booking – pull in when you're hungry.

Fooderia - Langebaan

Cozy, stylish café in the heart of Langebaan, serving excellent coffee, fresh baked goods, and hearty breakfasts

Soldato Cafe - Langebaan

Handy, stylish coffee spot at the Country Estate – excellent for post-golf or a tidy brunch. They run occasional wine/food evenings; check their socials and book if it's an event night.

The Daily Coffee Café - Langebaan (Laguna Mall)

Reliable all-day café with consistent espresso, big breakfasts and a friendly neighbourhood feel – great if you've got kids or need quick Wi-Fi. Good mid-week option to dodge weekend crowds.

Cafés and Cute Coffee spots

Columbine Co. - Velddrif (Bokkomlaan)

Pretty riverside spot with great beans, fresh breads and a local market vibe – perfect for a long coffee while strolling Bokkomlaan. Grab a bag of their roast-to-take.

Cup of Cake - Saldanha

The go-to for cakes, cupcakes and top-quality coffee in Saldanha – brilliant when you want something sweet with your espresso. If you need a celebration cake, order ahead.

St Helena Bay Nursery & Coffee Shop - St Helena Bay

Plant nursery meets ocean-view coffee shop – pretty setting, hearty breakfasts and cake. A lovely stop for families; mid-morning is the sweetest time (light and plant displays).

The House of Bean & Leaf - Jacobsbaai

Properly charming: strong coffee, really good brunch plates and a few Instagram-friendly dishes (banoffee waffle is a winner). Weekends fill up – book for brunch.

Daai Plekkie - Jacobsbaai

More than a restaurant – excellent for coffee/long breakfasts with sea views. The place has real local character; book weekends and public holidays.

Mad Hatter Coffee Shop - Lamberts Bay

Cute, centrally-located tea room – great cakes and a reliable cappuccino after a harbour walk.

Isabella's / harbour cafés - Lamberts Bay

Harbour front cafés with coffee, light meals and water views – excellent for a mid-afternoon stop while watching the birds and seals.

Kwaaitjie Meraaitjie / Wit Mossel Pot - Elands Bay

Small, heart-of-town cafés that do proper local coffee, roosterkoek and bakery treats – a genuine surf-town vibe. Great for a casual breakfast before exploring the Verlorenvlei.

Thi Art Coffee - Clanwilliam

Speciality coffee bar in Clanwilliam – great espresso, friendly staff and a tidy place to work for an hour. If you're heading into the Cederberg, it's the pre-hike fuel stop.

Cape West Coast Guide

Cafés and Cute Coffee spots

Yellow Aloe / Velskoendraai options - Clanwilliam area

Small, characterful cafés and farm-stall coffee stops that showcase local rooibos and simple bakery goods - ideal for a relaxed breakfast on the way to flower drives.

Oppi Hoek Coffee Shop - Citrusdal

Friendly, local coffee shop (and great picnic provisions) - a handy stop before hikes, and a good place to sample local produce. Weekdays quieter; weekends fill with families.

Kokerboom Kwekery - Vanrhynsdorp

Charming café set within the Kokerboom Nursery, serving excellent coffee, freshly baked treats, and light lunches. Surrounded by indigenous plants, it's perfect for a slow morning or afternoon break. Ideal for a pit stop before exploring the flower fields. Pet-friendly.

Cape West Coast Guide

Hiking Trails

The Prettiest Hikes

Geelbek Trail -Langebaan (West Coast National Park)

A wetland and lagoon hike with flamingos, eland, and sweeping views across Langebaan Lagoon.

- Distance: Up to 9 km loop (choose shorter sections)
- Difficulty: Easy-Moderate
- Cost: R96 per adult (SA), R48 per child (entry fee)
- Permits: Included in West Coast National Park entry

Tienie Versfeld Wildflower Reserve -Darling

A seasonal wonderland with a short walking loop through renosterveld and wildflowers.

- Distance: 1-2 km loop
- Difficulty: Very Easy
- Cost: Free
- Permits: None
- Peak bloom is August-September. Aim for early afternoons on sunny days when the light makes the fields glow, but the flowers are still open.

Bird Island Boardwalk / Bird Island Nature Reserve -Lamberts Bay

A tiny but unforgettable bird colony visit (Cape gannets). Very short walk and a hide for watching colonies.

- Distance: short boardwalk / island circuit (walks under 1 km).
- Difficulty: Super-easy.
- Cost / Permits: CapeNature R55 per adult. Book/pay at CapeNature portal or gate.
- Late afternoon lighting is magic for photos and gannet activity; check tide/sea conditions (island access closed if seas rough).

Seeberg Viewpoint (West Coast NP) -Langebaan

Fast, accessible viewpoint with some scrambling optional -ideal if you want big lagoon views without a long hike.

- Distance: part of the Bakoor Trail -4.6 km if you do the full return; viewpoint itself is a short walk from the track.
- Difficulty: Super-easy to easy.
- Cost / Permits: SANParks entry R78 per person
- Combine with a lazy afternoon at nearby Tsaarsbank beach for a full day out.

West Coast National Park, Langebaan



Cape West Coast Guide

Hiking Trails

The Prettiest Hikes

Mauritzbaai / Kwaaiabaai viewpoint (Jacobsbaai)

Short coastal strolls to little viewpoints over the bays -perfect quick outings from Jacobsbaai homes.

- Distance: short (200-1,500 m to viewpoints depending on start).
- Difficulty: Super-easy.
- Cost / Permits: Free (public coastal paths).
- Early morning is best for still water and birdlife; pack a thermos of coffee, some rusks, and binoculars.

Gifberg Plateau Hike -Vanrhynsdorp

A dramatic hike across sandstone formations, waterfalls, and wildflowers in spring.

- Distance: 6-8 km depending on route
- Difficulty: Moderate
- Cost: ±R50 (private land, pay at Gifberg Holiday Farm)
- Permits: Ask at the farm gate
- After rains, the waterfalls are incredible -pack swimming gear for secret pools.

Cape Columbine Lighthouse Trails -Paternoster

Hike through Columbine Nature Reserve's granite boulders, fynbos, and tidal pools with lighthouse views.

- Distance: 5-8 km flexible routes
- Difficulty: Easy
- Cost: ±R40 entry fee
- Permits: Pay at Columbine Nature Reserve gate
- Sunset hikes are spectacular -bring snacks and watch the lighthouse beam switch on.

Cape West Coast Guide

Hiking Trails

Easy Hikes



Seekombuis → Tietiesbaai loop (Paternoster)

Classic coastal walk in the reserve, lots of tidal pools and lighthouse views.

- Distance: commonly done as a ~8-10 km loop depending on route.
- Difficulty: Easy-moderate (rocky stretches).
- Cost / Permits: Small municipal/conservation entrance fee R30 per person.
- If you want lighthouse access to the top there's usually a small extra fee and limited opening hours -bring cash/change.

Sandbaai Coastal Trail -Jacobsbaai (Sandbaai / local coastal paths)

A short coastal trail with fynbos, rocky points and small beaches.

- Distance: ~ 3-4 km depending on start/finish.
- Difficulty: Easy.
- Cost / Permits: Free / public coastal paths.
- Follow the Five Bay Trail signage if you want to extend to neighbouring bays; low tide makes some rocky stretches easier.

Berg River Estuary walks -Velddrif / Port Owen

Flat estuary walks and birding hides -long estuarine system with many short loops.

- Distance: options from short 1-3 km loops up to longer 8-10 km birding routes.
- Difficulty: Easy.
- Cost / Permits: Generally free for public estuary walks; guided boat/river tours charged separately (book locally).
- Dawn or sunset for birdlife; bring binoculars -the estuary is one of the best birding spots on the Coast.

Elands Bay Cave / Baboon Point (Elands Bay)

Visit the archaeology site and the short coastal walk to the cave (rock art & sweeping coastline).

- Distance: Elands Bay Cave is ~3 km from town (short walk/drive + short path to cave).
- Difficulty: Easy (but some sandy/rocky walking).
- Cost / Permits: Free to visit; check local tourism office for access specifics.
- Check tide times if you plan to continue along the beach; late winter/early spring birdlife and rock pools are great.

Cape West Coast Guide

Hiking Trails

Moderate Hikes

Wolfberg Cracks -Cederberg near Citrusdal

Iconic sandstone cleft with ladders and scrambling -one of the Cederberg's best day hikes.

- Distance: typically 6-8 km return from common trailheads (routes vary).
- Difficulty: Moderate → Strenuous (rock scrambling, uneven terrain).
- Cost / Permits: CapeNature R100 per person, per day.
- Start early to avoid midday heat, and bring sturdy shoes -the final approach has some short scrambling on rock slabs.

Sevilla Rock Art Trail -Clanwilliam area (Sevilla / Pakhuis side routes)

Combine dramatic rock scenery with San rock art panels -a window into human history and a beautiful moderate hike.

- Distance: commonly \approx 4-6 km round trip (routes & access points differ).
- Difficulty: Moderate.
- Cost / Permits: R50 per person at the Farm Stall at Traveller's Rest.

Gifberg Bushman Route / Gifboom Loop -Vanrhynsdorp area (Gifberg Holiday Farm & Gifberg trails)

Wildflower-stippled mountain scenery and longer loop options -classic northern West Coast upland hike.

- Distance: options from short \pm 2.5 km loops up to strenuous 20+ km routes; common moderate loops \approx 6-10 km.
- Difficulty: Moderate → Strenuous on the longer loops.
- Cost / Permits: Gifberg Holiday Farm R50 per day.
- The shorter 2.5 km loops are perfect for families during flower season; longer Bushman routes need navigation skills.

Cape West Coast Guide

Things to Do

Cape Columbine Lighthouse Tour - Paternoster

Visit the last manually controlled lighthouse in South Africa, tour the museum, and take in sea-bird and sunset views.

- Price: R580 per adult
- Best Time: Weekends, weather permitting
- Booking: via [Visit SA](#)

Yima Stand-Up E-Bike Tour - Paternoster (Cape Columbine Nature Reserve)

Ride an E-bike with spectacular reserve views and explore the coastline effortlessly. Includes optional lighthouse visit and snacks.

- Price: R1,040 per two-person ride (includes extras)
- Best Time: Mornings are quieter, ideal for photos
- Booking: [Visit Paternoster Experience Gifts](#)

San Guided Experience - !Khwa ttu (Yzerfontein area)

Interactive cultural tour led by San guides, exploring heritage, storytelling, and traditional survival skills.

Price: R150 per person for 1.5 hr guided experience

Best Time: Daily; booking essential for groups

Booking: [At !Khwa ttu Heritage Centre](#)

San Tea Tasting Tour - !Khwa ttu

Taste teas brewed from indigenous plants while learning the San cultural significance behind them.

Price: R210 per person

Best Time: Daily; book small groups in advance

Booking: [At !Khwa ttu reception](#)

Kayaking (Langebaan Lagoon)

Paddle across calm lagoon waters; rentals or guided kayaking scenic tours available.

- Price: R295 (2 hr single kayak) / R395 (2 hr double kayak); guided tours from R650-R1,280
- Best Time: Early mornings - flat water, fewer crowds
- Booking: [Gravity Adventures](#)

Cape West Coast Guide

Things to Do

Kitesurfing Lessons - Langebaan

Learn to ride the wind in one of the world's best flat-water kite spots. Lessons range from quick intro to multi-day courses.

- Price: From R2,100 for a 3-hour group lesson; full-day or multi-day packages up to R9,800
- Best Time: Summer (strong, steady South-Easter wind); book ahead
- Booking: [Coastline Kitesurfing](#)





Grootvlei Guest Farm - Lamberts Bay

Cape West Coast Guide

Best Beaches

Paternoster & Surrounds

Tietiesbaai (Cape Columbine Nature Reserve)

Quiet and scenically rugged, with rock pools and dramatic limestone cliffs-great for peaceful mornings and tide-pooling.

Paternoster Bay (Mosselbank & Voorstrand)

Wide white sands, safe shallow water for families, and a local favorite for whale watching from the shore during Aug-Dec. Kayak trips start here, too.

Look for dolphins off Tamaryn Rock - kayakers often spot them up close.

Langebaan & West Coast National Park

Langebaan Main Beach

The hub of watersports-ideal for kids and beginners with gentle lagoon waves and easy beach access. Mornings are quieter; head to Leentjiesklip nearby for calmer swim areas.

Shark Bay

A hidden gem with turquoise, calm water-excellent for paddleboarding, windsurfing, or just soaking in the lagoon. Locals say this is the warmest water in Langebaan.

Kraalbaai & “Tyrannosaurus” Beach

Secluded white sandy bay with houseboats on the lagoon-fly high for photogenic rocks resembling a dinosaur’s head.

Jacobsbaai

Hospital Bay

Large sandy stretch perfect for families and sunset views. The low-tide reveals the wreck of the Barge Margaret-great for casual exploring.

The Seven Bays (Kwaibaai, Smalbaai, Mauritzbaai, etc.)

Explore rugged coves, watch seabirds swoop over shallow waters, surf at Kwaibaai, or spot seals near Moerie-se-Baai.

Velddrif & Saldanha Estuary

Estuary Walks & Birding Beaches

Flat walks along the Berg River with flamingos and waders, especially beautiful at dawn or dusk.

Lambert’s Bay

Bird Island Access Beach

Family-friendly walk leading to a hide with gannets, penguins, and seals against a pristine coastal backdrop.



Paternoster Beach

Cape West Coast Guide Hidden Gems

Die Strandloper (The Strandloper Seafood Boma)- Langebaan

A theatrical barefoot seafood feast on the beach: multi-course, open-fire cooking, long communal tables and a proper West Coast vibe. It's not just dinner- it's an event. Treat it like theatre- turn up hungry, trust the flow, and sit outside for the full sand-and-fire experience.

Postberg Wildflower Area- West Coast National Park

One of South Africa's show-stopper wildflower displays (only open seasonally).

When the winter rains are right, Postberg becomes a carpet of colour with dunes, daisies and bulbs right down to the shoreline.

Paternoster Waterfront + IL Dolci / Gelato stops

The strip along the wharf is a lovely wind-blown hangout- perfect for an ice-cream on a warm day after a beach walk or gallery hop. Local artisan gelato stalls like Il Dolci are exactly the kind of tiny pleasures we recommend.

Namaqua Flower Beach Camp (Groenrivier / Namaqua National Park)

Luxury seasonal beachfront glamping inside the Namaqua coast's flower zone- tents, full meals, dramatic coastal flowers and night skies. This is the rugged coastline + flowers combo in one stay.

Kagga Kamma Open-Air / Star Suite- Cederberg

Sleep literally under the stars in an Open-Air Suite or Outcrop Open-Air Room- bed on a rock-roofed platform with only the sky above. Perfect for a romantic bucket-list night.

Swemgat Natural Rock Pool- Yzerfontein (near 16-Mile Beach)

A sheltered clear blue natural rock pool that's a little warmer and calmer than the open Atlantic- a local favourite for a safe, scenic dip.



Swemgat Natural Rock Pool- Yzerfontein (near 16-Mile Beach)

Wine, Waves & Wagging Tails

6-Night Cape West Coast Family & Pet-Friendly Itinerary

📍 Night 1-2: Malmesbury - Wine Farm Magic & Farmhouse Luxury

Stay: **The Koringhuis** at AA Badenhorst Family Wines

🔗 [AA Badenhorst Family Wines](#)

💰 R6,000 per night (sleeps 10)

🌙 3 bedrooms, each with private bathroom & lounge

Why we love it:

- A 1700s restored farmhouse with old-world charm + modern comforts.
- Pet-friendly, with lots of open space for kids & pups to run wild.
- Wine tastings on the property + smaller cottages for couples in your group.
- Indoor fires, board games, and a hot tub for cozy evenings.

Adventure Time:

🍷 Book a wine tasting right on the estate (the Badenhorst wines are **legendary**).

🥾 Take a morning farm walk through vineyards and koppies.

🍴 Pack a picnic or braai on the stoep overlooking the dam.

If you're visiting on a Saturday, pop into **Schoone Oordt Market** in Malmesbury for fresh bread, cheese, and treats for your stay.

📍 Night 3-4: Jacobsbaai - Beachfront Living & Rock Pool Play

Stay: **Sunset-Sea - Jacobsbaai**

🔗 [Sunset-Sea Jacobsbaai](#)

💰 R3,700-R7,000 per night (season dependent)

🌙 Sleeps 8 (4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms - 2 en-suite)

Why we love it:

- Dreamy sea-facing home with indoor/outdoor braais.
- Solar-heated splash pool + inverter backup for peace of mind.
- Rock pools for kids, sundowner decks for adults, Netflix for everyone.
- Pet-friendly by arrangement (your pup can join the beach walks!).

Adventure Time:

🌞 Spend the day at Mauritzbaai exploring rock pools & safe swimming.

🍴 Dinner at Daai Plekkie (pet-friendly deck dining, famous for ribs & pizza).

🐟 Day trip to Paternoster (20 min away) for a seafood lunch at Leeto.

Jacobsbaai sunsets are some of the best on the West Coast- don't miss sundowners on the deck with local gin.

Cape West Coast Guide

Wine, Waves & Wagging Tails

6-Night Cape West Coast Family & Pet-Friendly Itinerary

• Night 5-6: Citrusdal - Mountains, Hot Tubs & Hidden Waterfalls

Stay: Daisy Cottage - Citrusdal

🔗 [Daisy Cottage Citrusdal](#)

💰 R2,500 - R3,500 per night

🌙 Sleeps 4 (2 bedrooms, 3 beds)

Why we love it:

- Farm-style hideaway with hot tub + fireplace.
- Pet-friendly + private garden terrace.
- Walk to a hidden waterfall & natural rock pools.
- Perfect balance of adventure & relaxation.

Adventure Time:

🥾 Explore the on property hiking trails (rock art, waterfall + epic views).

💦 Cool off in the natural swimming holes just a walk from your door.

West Coast Love Story

5 day romance itinerary

Night 1–2: Wheat Cabin – Dassenheuwel

Begin your romantic road trip at Wheat Cabin, one of South Africa's most enchanting honeymoon hideaways. Secluded and luxurious, this off-grid gem is surrounded by rolling valleys and endless skies. Wake up to golden light spilling over the canola fields, spend slow afternoons wrapped in nature's quiet, and sink into the wood-fired hot tub as the sun melts into the horizon.

- Sleeps: 2 (1 bedroom, 1 bath)
- Rates: From R2,750 per night (min. 2 nights)
- Features: Hot tub, indoor fireplace, hammock, outdoor braai, kitchenette, aircon, Wi-Fi
- Pet Friendly: No

Suggested Activities:

- Sunset walk among the canola fields
- Birdwatching from the deck with morning coffee
- Romantic braai dinner under the stars, bubbly in the wood-fired hottub

Night 3–4: La Baleine – Paternoster

Continue your journey to the charming fishing village of Paternoster, where La Baleine offers dreamy beachside living just steps from the ocean. Wake up to the sound of waves, wander hand-in-hand along the shoreline, and share sunsets from your private patio. With elegant interiors, crackling fireplaces, and the sea on your doorstep, it's the perfect place to slow down and soak up the magic of the West Coast together.

- Sleeps: 2–4 (depending on house/studio)
- Rates: From R2,650 per night
- Features: Sea views, private patio, braai, kitchen, smart TV (DSTV + Netflix), fireplaces/electric heaters, Wi-Fi, undercover parking, direct beach access
- Pet Friendly: Yes 

Suggested Activities:

- Sunset beach strolls hand-in-hand
- Ice cream at the Paternoster Waterfront
- Dinner at The Noisy Oyster or Wolfgat (World-famous dining experience, book ahead!)
- Morning coffee date at The Panty Bar or a local café
- Short hike up Cape Columbine Lighthouse for panoramic sea views

West Coast Love Story

5 day romance itinerary

Optional Seasonal Add-On (Spring): Maskam Guest Farm – Vanrhynsdorp

If you're travelling during wildflower season, add a stop at Maskam Guest Farm- a true hidden gem tucked beneath the Maskam and Gifberg mountains. Here, romance meets rugged beauty: wander hand-in-hand through carpets of colourful blooms, sip wine as the sun dips behind the peaks, and retreat to your cosy cottage with sweeping valley views. With its quiet charm and breathtaking natural backdrop, Maskam is where love and nature come alive.

- Accommodation: 3 two-bedroom cottages + 2 couple cottages
- Sleeps: 2–4 (depending on cottage)
- Rates: Suikerbekkie Cottage from R570–R1120 per night (season/occupancy dependent)
- Pet Friendly: Yes 🐾 (up to 2 small dogs per unit, R50 per dog per night)

Suggested Activities:

- Drive the Namaqualand flower routes (1500+ species in bloom in spring 🌸)
- Stargazing from your stoep with a bottle of local wine
- Take a farm walk or cycle with mountain backdrops
- Explore nearby Nieuwoudtville (the bulb capital of the world)

Waterfalls & Wilderness

7 day adventure itinerary

• Day 1-2: Balie's Gat Camp & Accommodation – Op-Die-Berg

Stay: Oupa Tienie Tent (or similar) at Balie's Gat

 [\[Link to book\]](#)

 From ±R1,550 per night (sleeps 4)

 Sleeps: 4 (tented camp with private rock pool & outdoor bath)

Why we love it:

Balie's Gat is the kind of place that still feels like a secret. Tucked into a kloof in the Ceres mountains, it's rugged and romantic all at once. Your tent opens onto your own private rock pool, with nothing but birdsong and the rush of the river for company. Evenings are for braais under endless stars, while days drift by between waterfall swims and lazy hammock hours. It's raw, unfiltered nature- without skimping on comfort.

Adventure Time:

 Hike to hidden waterfall pools in the kloof (private access from camp).

 Swim in your own private rock pool right at the tent.

 Evening braais with nothing but stars overhead.

 Foodie stop: Stock up at Die Kloof Padstal (Ceres) on your way- their roosterkoek and farm preserves are legendary.

• Day 3-4: AfriCamps at de Pakhuys – Clanwilliam

Stay: Luxury Glamping Tent at de Pakhuys

 [\[Link to book\]](#)

 From ±R1,640 per night (sleeps 5)

 Sleeps: 5 per tent

Why we love it:

De Pakhuys is a playground for anyone who feels most alive outdoors. Set among the sandstone giants of Rocklands, this is where climbers from around the world come to test their strength- and where non-climbers come simply to marvel at the landscapes. The AfriCamps tents strike a perfect balance: wake up to wide-open views, cook breakfast with the doors flung open, then set out for hikes and waterfalls straight from your doorstep. Nights are best spent by the fire or in the hottub, glass of local wine in hand, with stars blazing overhead.

Adventure Time:

 Try bouldering in Rocklands – world-famous for climbing.

 Short hike to Waterfall Trail on the farm – stunning after rains.

 Day trip to Clanwilliam Dam for kayaking or fishing.

 If visiting Aug–Sept: drive the Namaqua flower route via Nieuwoudtville.

Cape West Coast Guide

Waterfalls & Wilderness

7 day adventure itinerary

• Day 5–6: Kaggia Kamma Nature Reserve – Cederberg

Stay: Cave Suite or Star Bed at Kaggia Kamma

 [\[Link to book\]](#)

 From ±R4,400 per couple (add R1,500 for open-air star suite)

 Sleeps: 2

Why we love it:

Kaggia Kamma feels like another world- part desert, part dreamscape. Sleeping in an open-air suite here is an experience you'll never forget: just you, your hot tub, and the Milky Way for company. Even the cave suites are extraordinary, carved seamlessly into the rocks. By day, hike between sculpted boulders and discover ancient San rock art; by night, sit down to a lantern-lit dinner as jackals call in the distance. It's the very definition of otherworldly romance, with the kind of silence you'll want to bottle and take home.

Adventure Time:

 Sleep beneath a million stars in the open-air suite.

 Hike one of Kaggia Kamma's private trails (varying lengths)- look out for ancient San rock art.

 Sunset safari drives to spot eland, springbok, and raptors.

 Cool off in the lodge pool carved into the rocks.

 Dinner under the stars with boma-style fires and local wines.

Thanks so much for traveling with us & for
choosing us to be your guides to
The Cape West Coast!

until next time, wishing you many happy adventures

All our love,
Josh & Ruthie Betts

