Cape Town International Airport (IATA: CPT, ICAO: FACT) is the primary international airport serving the city of Cape Town, and is the second-busiest airport in South Africa and fourth-busiest in Africa. Located approximately 20 kilometres (12 mi) from the city centre, the airport was opened in 1954 to replace Cape Town's previous airport, Wingfield Aerodrome. Cape Town International Airport is the only airport in the Cape Town metropolitan area that offers scheduled passenger services. The airport has domestic and international terminals, linked by a common central terminal.  
The airport has direct flights from South Africa's other two main urban areas, Johannesburg and Durban, as well as flights to smaller centres in South Africa. Internationally, it has direct flights to several destinations in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Europe and the United States. The air route between Cape Town and Johannesburg was the world's ninth-busiest air route in 2011 with an estimated 4.5 million passengers.[1]  
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History[edit]  
D.F. Malan Airport was opened in 1954, a year after Jan Smuts Airport (now OR Tambo International Airport) on the Witwatersrand, near Johannesburg, opened. The airport replaced Cape Town's previous airport, Wingfield Aerodrome. Originally named after the then South African prime minister, it initially offered two international flights: a direct flight to Britain and a second flight to Britain via Johannesburg.[2]  
With the fall of apartheid in the early 1990s, ownership of the airport was transferred from the state to the newly formed Airports Company South Africa,[3] and the airport was renamed to the politically neutral Cape Town International Airport.[4] The first years of the twenty-first century saw tremendous growth at the airport; from handling 6.2 million passengers per annum in 2004–05, the airport peaked at 8.4 million passengers per annum in 2007–08 before falling back to 7.8 million in 2008–09. In 2016, the airport saw a 29% increase in international arrivals; 2016 also saw the airport handle 10 million passengers per annum.  
Name change[edit]  
On 16 April 2018, it was reported in the Cape Times that the Minister of Transport, Bonginkosi Nzimande, had directed ACSA on 22 March 2018 to change the name of Cape Town International Airport to Nelson Mandela International Airport.[5] The name change was discussed and as yet no name change had been published in the Government Gazette.[6]  
On 5 March 2019, the EFF filed a motion in Parliament calling for the renaming of Cape Town International Airport after anti-apartheid icon Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. Whilst members of the Khoi community pushed for the airport to be named after the !Uriǁ'aeǀona translator and cultural icon Krotoa.[7] One of the arguments of the opposition was that the Parliament is not constitutionally empowered to resolve on any name change and that it was the responsibility of the South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC) to deal with name changes. The motion was not successful.[8]  
Until a name change has been published in the Government Gazette, it remains Cape Town International Airport. In February 2021, the Cape Times reported that the proposed name change of the airport had been "quietly ditched".[9]  
Developments[edit]  
In preparation for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Cape Town International Airport was extensively expanded and renovated. The main focus was the development of a Central Terminal Building at a cost of R1.6 billion,[10] which linked the formerly separate domestic and international terminals and provided a common check-in area.[11] The departures level of the Central Terminal opened in November 2009, with the entire building opened in April 2010.[10]  
Apart from the completion of the 2010 expansion project, it had been proposed that a second runway for large aircraft be constructed at the airport, to be completed by 2015. However, this second runway has not been constructed. In May 2015, Airports Company South Africa announced a R7.7 billion expansion for the airport. The expansion includes the upgrades of the Domestic & International terminals. The expansion project is set to start construction at the end of 2018 and to be completed by mid-2022.  
Facilities[edit]  
Terminal[edit]  
The airport has two terminals linked by the central terminal.  
Central Terminal  
The terminal building has a split-level design, with departures located on the upper floors and arrivals in the lower floors; an elevated roadway system provides vehicular access to both departures and arrivals levels.[11] All check-in takes place within the Central Terminal Building, which contains 120 check-in desks and 20 self-service kiosks.[11] Passengers then pass through a consolidated security screening area before dividing. Passengers flying internationally head to the northern part of the airport which is the international terminal, and passengers flying to other parts of South Africa head to the southern part of the airport to the domestic terminal.  
The terminal has 10 air bridges, evenly split between domestic and international usage. Sections of lower levels of the domestic and international terminals are used for transporting passengers via bus to and from remotely parked aircraft.[11]  
Arriving passengers collect luggage in the old sections of their respective terminals, before proceeding through new passageways to the new Central Terminal Building.[10] The terminal contains an automated baggage handling system, capable of handling 30,000 bags per hour.[11]  
Retail outlets are located on the lower (arrivals) level of the terminal at landside, as well as airside at the departure gates. Retail outlets are diverse, including foreign exchange services, bookstores, clothing retailers, grocery stores, souvenir outlets and duty-free in international departures. Restaurants within the terminal building are located on the upper (3rd) level above the departures level, which includes what is purported to be the largest Spur restaurant on the African continent, at 1,080 m2 (11,600 sq ft).[11] The restaurant level overlooks the airside of the terminal, where a glass curtain wall separates the patrons from the planes 3 storeys below. On the 4th floor is where the airport's lounges are situated. The Bidvest, as well as South African Airways lounges, can be found here.  
International Terminal  
The international terminal is located on the northern side of the airport. Customs and Immigration facilities, lounges, duty-free shops, restaurants, prayer rooms, conference rooms, airline offices, and chapels are located in the terminal.  
Domestic Terminal  
Located on the southern side of the airport, it has the same facilities as the international terminal with exception of Immigration facilities.  
Other facilities[edit]  
There are two hotels located within the airport precinct, one being Hotel Verde, a four-star hotel owned by Bon Hotels, ranked as "Africa's greenest hotel",[12] and the other being Road Lodge, a budget hotel owned by the City Lodge hotel chain group. An ExecuJet facility is located near the southern end of the main runway and caters for business jets. The airport also has a MyCiti BRT station, which connects across the whole of Cape Town including east of Khayelitsha.  
  
Airlines and destinations[edit]  
Passenger[edit]  
Airlines Destinations  
Airlink Bloemfontein, George, Harare,[13] Hoedspruit, Johannesburg–O. R. Tambo, Kimberley, Maun, Nelspruit, Skukuza, Upington, Victoria Falls, Walvis Bay,[14] Windhoek–Hosea Kutako  
Seasonal: Saint Helena[15]  
Austrian Airlines Seasonal: Vienna  
British Airways Durban, East London,[16] Johannesburg–O. R. Tambo, London–Heathrow (resumes 1 November 2021),[17]Port Elizabeth  
Cathay Pacific Seasonal: Hong Kong[18]  
CemAir Durban, George,[19] Hoedspruit, Johannesburg–O. R. Tambo  
Edelweiss Air Seasonal: Zürich  
Emirates Dubai–International[20]  
Ethiopian Airlines Addis Ababa  
Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi (resumes 25 November 2021)[21]  
FlySafair Bloemfontein,[22] Durban, East London, Johannesburg–Lanseria, Johannesburg–O. R. Tambo, Port Elizabeth  
FlyWestair Windhoek–Hosea Kutako[23]  
Kenya Airways Livingstone, Nairobi–Jomo Kenyattaa  
KLM Amsterdam  
Kulula.com Durban (resumes 31 October 2021),[24]Johannesburg–Lanseria, Johannesburg–O. R. Tambo  
LIFT Airline Johannesburg–O. R. Tambo  
Lufthansa Frankfurt  
Seasonal: Munich  
Mango[25] Bloemfontein, Durban, Johannesburg–O. R. Tambo (flights temporarily suspended) [26]  
Qatar Airways Doha  
South African Airways Johannesburg–O. R. Tambo[27]  
TAP Air Portugal Lisbon (begins 1 November 2021)[28]  
Turkish Airlines Istanbul  
United Airlines Seasonal: Newark[29]  
Virgin Atlantic Seasonal: London–Heathrow[30][31]  
Notes  
^a : Kenya Airways flights to Nairobi operate via Victoria Falls and Livingstone.  
Cargo[edit]  
Airlines Destinations  
BidAir Cargo[32] Johannesburg–Lanseria, Johannesburg–O. R. Tambo  
Statistics[edit]  
Passenger traffic[edit]  
See source Wikidata query and sources.  
  
Annual passenger traffic for Cape Town International Airport[33][34]  
Fiscal year International Regional Domestic Unscheduled Total  
Passenger movements % Change Passenger movements % Change Passenger movements % Change Passenger movements % Change Passenger movements % Change  
2004–05 1,176,958 no data 126,837 no data 4,895,048 no data 16,060 no data 6,214,903 no data  
2005–06 1,167,661 0.8% 149,489 17.9% 5,503,690 12.4% 13,333 17.0% 6,834,173 10.0%  
2006–07 1,246,016 6.7% 147,885 1.1% 6,107,405 11.0% 17,237 29.3% 7,518,543 10.0%  
2007–08 1,309,822 5.1% 145,858 1.4% 6,950,061 13.8% 20,877 21.1% 8,426,618 12.1%  
2008–09 1,378,160 5.2% 138,000 5.4% 6,283,132 9.6% 13,878 33.5% 7,813,170 7.3%  
2009–10 1,284,990 6.8% 122,584 11.2% 6,391,079 1.7% 11,416 17.7% 7,810,069 0.0%  
2010–11 1,261,024 1.9% 122,609 0.0% 6,781,143 6.1% 35,771 213% 8,200,547 5.0%  
2011–12 1,400,487 11.1% 133,280 8.7% 7,028,669 3.7% 13,902 157% 8,576,338 4.6%  
2012–13 1,325,481 5.4% 144,148 8.2% 6,951,577 1.1% 13,593 2.2% 8,434,799 1.7%  
2013–14 1,355,524 2.3% 143,356 0.7% 6,879,919 1.0% 14,190 4.4% 8,392,989 0.5%  
2014–15 1,452,360 7.1% 150,602 5.1% 7,142,907 3.9% 10,003 41.9% 8,755,872 4.3%  
2015–16 1,564,464 7.7% 179,775 19.4% 7,902,362 10.6% 12,988 29.8% 9,659,589 10.3%  
2016–17 1,934,641 23.7% 197,437 9.8% 8,067,516 2.1% 11,796 9.2% 10,211,390 5.7%  
2017–18 2,243,367 16% 208,903 5.8% 8,286,618 2.7% 13,358 13.2% 10,752,246 5.3%  
2018–19 2,406,594 7.3% 195,617 6.4% 8,209,610 0.1% 11,916 10.8% 10,823,737 0.1%  
2019–20 2,356,225 2.1% 183,999 5.9% 8,137,246 0.9% 11,328 4.9% 10,688,798 1.2%  
Aircraft movements[edit]  
Annual aircraft movements for Cape Town International Airport[35]  
Fiscal year International Regional Domestic Unscheduled Total  
Aircraft movements % Change Aircraft movements % Change Aircraft movements % Change Aircraft movements % Change Aircraft movements % Change  
2004–05 4,355 no data 4,242 no data 56,810 no data 27,154 no data 92,561 no data  
2005–06 4,296 1.4% 4,169 1.7% 58,099 2.3% 22,326 17.8% 88,890 4.0%  
2006–07 4,623 7.6% 3,698 11.3% 60,470 4.1% 22,602 1.2% 91,393 2.8%  
2007–08 5,019 8.6% 3,420 7.5% 69,819 15.5% 24,027 6.3% 102,285 11.9%  
2008–09 5,638 12.3% 3,340 2.3% 65,623 6.0% 21,042 12.4% 95,643 6.5%  
2009–10 4,884 13.4% 3,296 1.3% 65,020 0.9% 19,379 7.9% 92,579 3.2%  
2010–11 4,868 0.3% 3,137 4.8% 66,587 2.4% 19,031 1.8% 93,623 1.1%  
2012–13 4,906 0.8% 3,557 4.8% 62,065 6.7% 18,545 1.8% 89,073 4.9%  
2013–14 4,961 1.1% 2,855 4.8% 60,665 2.3% 20,092 1.8% 88,573 0.6%  
2014–15 5,091 2.6% 3,135 4.8% 64,269 5.9% 18,651 1.8% 91,146 2.9%  
2015–16 5,568 9.4% 4,783 4.8% 70,731 10% 19,139 1.8% 100,221 10%  
2016–17 7,121 27.9% 5,048 4.8% 71,081 0.5% 16,087 1.8% 99,337 0.9%  
2017–18 9,206 29.3% 5,048 4.8% 72,110 1.4% 16,252 1.8% 103,001 3.7%  
2018–19 10,490 13.9% 4,950 1.9% 67,328 6.6% 15,898 2.2% 98,666 4.2%  
Ground transport[edit]  
Car[edit]  
Cape Town International Airport is approximately 20 kilometres (12 mi) from the city centre and is accessible from the N2 freeway, with Airport Approach Road providing a direct link between the N2 (at exit 16) and the airport. The airport can also be indirectly accessed from the R300 freeway via the M12, M10 and M22.  
The airport provides approximately 1,424 parking bays in the general parking area, and 1,748 parking bays in the multi-storey parkade located near the domestic terminal.[36] A new parkade, which is located near the international terminal and while a provides an additional 4,000 bays, was opened in 2010.[37] The airport also offers a valet parking service.[36]  
Public transport[edit]  
The MyCiTi bus rapid transit system provides a shuttle service connecting the airport with the Civic Centre bus station in the city centre. Buses depart every 20 minutes from 04:20 to 22:00.[38] Transport to and from the airport is also provided by metered taxis and various private shuttle companies.[4]  
Rail link[edit]  
There is no direct rail access to Cape Town International Airport. The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa has proposed a 4 km (2.5 mi) rail link between the airport and Cape Town's existing suburban rail network.  
Accolades[edit]  
2009 – Best Airport in Africa award by Skytrax, ahead of Durban International Airport and OR Tambo International Airport.[39]  
2011 – Best Airport in Africa of the Airport Service Quality Awards by Airports Council International[40]  
2012 – Best Airport in Africa award by Skytrax  
2013 – Best Airport Staff in Africa award by Skytrax[41]  
2013 – Best Airport in Africa award by Skytrax[41]  
2018 – Best Airport in Africa award by Skytrax[42]  
See also[edit]  
List of South African airports by passenger movements