# Vacationing in Cape Town, an analysis of activities and accommodation rental prices

Paul Bolton June 27, 2020

### Problem and Background discussion

Living in South Africa, one of the most visited tourist spots is the wider Cape Town area, as a potential visitor to this area one is inundated with a huge amount of options on what to do and where to stay so much so that it can be overwhelming on how to make the most advantageous decision to get the most out of ones vacation to this beautiful area. In approaching this problem there are two questions that I want to focus on:

- What are my options on things that I can do?
- Where should I stay in relation to the activities that I want to perform and what is a reasonable price that I can spend on accommodation.

## Data acquisition and cleaning

#### Data sources

At a high level, the data sources that are required as input into the above problem are as follows:

- Neighbourhood data of the wider Cape Town Area
- Latitude and longitude coordinates for each of the respective areas
- Accommodation data for each of the areas
- GeoJson files to reflect the areas under review
- Activity data to show the list of venues and activities for each of the areas.

Each of the sub headings below will provide a narrative of how each of these Data sources were obtained

#### Neighbourhood Data

From my understanding there is no available data that provides a list of Neighbourhoods and their respective coordinates, to get over this hurdle I scrapped a <u>property website</u> to obtain a list of Neighbourhoods that reside within this area. Due to the Website being set up to cater for property sales as well as for the whole of the Western Cape area, I revised the output in two ways:

- All neighbourhoods that reside within the larger Cape Town area were included under Cape Town.
- The list was revised where a person would be able to take a day trip to the specific area all other areas were removed from the list due to their proximity being too far from Cape Town.

#### Latitude and longitude coordinates

Once a list of Neighbourhoods was obtained, I used Geopy module to obtain the coordinates for each of the respective Neighbourhoods.

#### Accommodation data

The above list of neighbourhoods was used as input into scraping the Air BnB Website to obtain a list of accommodation options

#### Area Data

Due to there being no geoJson files that provided the necessary districts to be able to produce a choropleth this had to be constructed, further details around this process can be seen in the next section under data cleaning.

#### Activity data

With the Neighbourhood data and their respective coordinates, this was used as input to obtain the activity and venue data from Foursquare utilising their API

#### Data cleaning

As mentioned earlier a lot of the information is not readily available, and it was necessary employ additional activities to obtain this information. Activities used were scraping websites and data wrangling activities.

#### Website Scraping

As mentioned above websites had to be scrapped to obtain the necessary data, python modules that were utilised were

- Request: to log a call to the property website and
- **BeautifulSoup:** to scrape the website and retrieve the data that I required.

#### Data Wrangling

This is a very generic term used to encompass all other data transformations that were performed to get the data into a format that could be utilised:

- Pandas: was used to take the scraped data and combine it into a dataframe
- Geopy: to obtain the coordinates of the Neighbourhoods
- Foursquare API: to obtain venues and activities with their respective coordinates.
- <u>Mapit website</u>: was used to provide the source of the Geojson files for the respective neighbourhood areas as these were not readily available. Refinement and consolidation needed to be performed as some of the areas were too small to reflect on a map of the size depicted below, this was achieved by consolidating some of the neighbourhoods together.
- Once all the GeoJson files had been obtained for each of the neighbourhoods they had to be joined into one file, to do this I used the <u>GeoJson websites</u> functionality to perform this task

## Methodology

	Neighborhood	Latitude	Longitude
0	Ceres	-33.368333	19.309167
1	Gansbaai	-34.582778	19.352222
2	Kleinmond	-34.338889	19.025278
3	Langebaan	-33.090717	18.034889
4	Malmesbury	-33.460278	18.723611
5	Paternoster	-32.809038	17.891695
6	Riebeek-Valley	-33.351008	18.870026
7	Saldanha	-32.997778	17.945556

Table 1

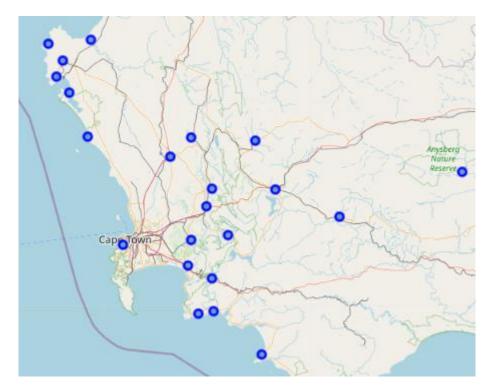


Image 1

As mentioned above I have approached this with two respective data sets that I want to focus on, which are the availability of accommodation in these areas with their related costs and, places of interest that comes from Four square data set, the below deals with obtaining the necessary Data, in the following sequence:

- 1. Accommodation data
- 2. Four Square data

#### Obtaining Accommodation details

The below field "Neighbourhood" in Table 2 was used to obtain a list of accommodation information from the Air BnB website for that respective Neighbourhood. The result was Table 3 a list of items with their respective prices per Neighbourhood.

	Grouping	Neighborhood	Latitude	Longitude
0	Ceres	Ceres	-33.368333	19.309167
1	Overstrand	Gansbaai	-34.582778	19.352222
2	Overstrand	Kleinmond	-34.338889	19.025278
3	Saldana Bay	Langebaan	-33.090717	18.034889
4	Swartland	Malmesbury	-33.460278	18.723611
5	Saldana Bay	Paternoster	-32.809038	17.891695
6	Swartland	Riebeek-Valley	-33.351008	18.870026
7	Saldana Bay	Saldanha	-32.997778	17.945556
8	Stellenbosch	Stellenbosch	-33.934444	18.869167
9	Strand	Strand	-33.546977	20.727530

Table 2

	Neighborhood	Venue	Price	Grouping
0	Ceres	Mosterts Hoek Self Catering Guest House	900	Ceres
1	Ceres	Ceres Cozy Cottage with private courtyard.	580	Ceres
2	Ceres	Mountain Spring Cottage close to town	900	Ceres
3	Ceres	Cozy Corner	350	Ceres
4	Ceres	Koraalboom 1	300	Ceres

Table 3

The total list of places that was obtained was 440 accommodation options across all the areas

## Accommodation Analysis

My next step was to get a feel of how each of the areas compare from an average pricing perspective. The above data set (Table 3) was summarised to provide the average price per area that can be viewed in Table 4, the results can also be seen on Image 2.

	Grouping	Price
0	Bergrivier	863.200000
1	Breedvalley	951.750000
2	Ceres	896.950000
3	City_of_Capetown	565.725000
4	Drakensfontein	721.625000
5	Langeberg	818.850000
6	Overstrand	855.566667
7	Saldana Bay	673.325000
8	Stellenbosch	757.225000
9	Strand	868.550000
10	Swartland	974.150000
11	Theewaterskloof	653.800000

Table 4

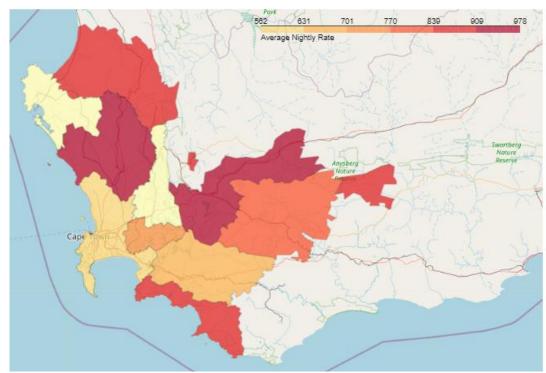
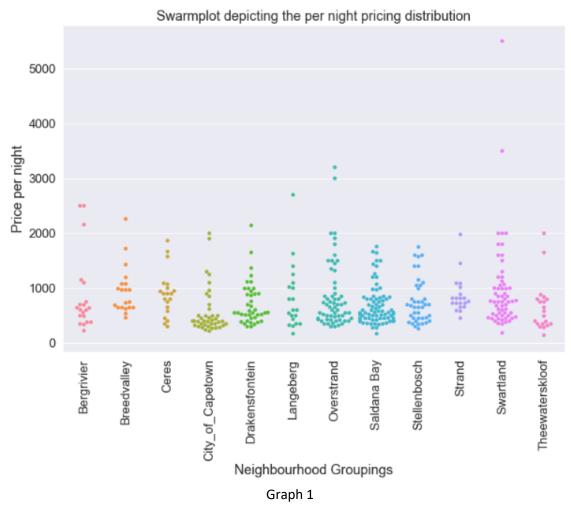


Image 2

As this provides a very high level view, I wanted to get a better understanding of how the pricing was distributed across each of the areas, the below provides a swarm plot of the distribution of the pricing, as can be seen there is quite a bit of variablity in the pricing across each of the areas, providing a great choice for different customer requirments, on the assumption that the higher the price the more luxury the accomodation. However looking at each of the different areas we can see that there is increased density of options within the R500-R1000 per night range.



For a more detailed view of each of the groupings please refer to Appendix A , where each area is dealt with in a relative amount of detail.

#### Obtaining Four Square details

Now that the Neighbourhood details are in place the next step is to utilise the four-square API to retrieve the top 100 venues in each of the respective neighbourhoods, the results for the data set only returned 231 different venues that consisted of 81 categories, the below Table 5 provides and excerpt of the data received from the Four Square API

	Neighborhood	Neighborhood Latitude	Neighborhood Longitude	Venue	Venue Latitude	Venue Longitude	Venue Category
0	Ceres	-33.368333	19.309167	Wimpy	-33.366085	19.316542	Burger Joint
1	Ceres	-33.368333	19.309167	Spar Ceres	-33.372555	19.307444	Convenience Store
2	Ceres	-33.368333	19.309167	Rocky River Spur	-33.366721	19.316228	Breakfast Spot
3	Ceres	-33.368333	19.309167	Steers	-33.372059	19.305644	Fast Food Restaurant
4	Ceres	-33.368333	19.309167	Pick N Pay Ceres	-33.365802	19.316216	Grocery Store

Table 5

With the expectation being that Four Square would return and adequate amount of data, I then performed the next step to understand which of the areas returned venues and how many. In Table 6 below shows how many venues were returned for each Neighbourhood. the 3 areas that returned the most amount of venues was Stellenbosch, Franschhoek and Somerset West, respectively. This analysis also provides a clear lack of options within certain neighbourhoods, to understand this further I performed some research on the trip advisor website to see if indeed this was the case, and found that Trip advisor provided a multitude of options, a lot more than Four Square

	Neighborhood Latitude	Neighborhood Longitude	Venue	Venue Latitude	Venue Longitude	Venue Category
Neighborhood						
Bettys Bay	8	8	8	8	8	8
Cape Town	5	5	5	5	5	5
Ceres	5	5	5	5	5	5
Franschhoek	38	38	36	36	36	36
Gansbaai	8	8	8	8	8	8
Grabouw	7	7	7	7	7	7
Kleinmond	4	4	4	4	4	4
Langebaan	11	11	11	11	11	11
Malmesbury	6	6	6	6	6	6
Paarl	3	3	3	3	3	3
Paternoster	14	14	14	14	14	14
Riebeek Valley	4	4	4	4	4	4
Robertson	11	11	11	11	11	11
Saldanha	6	6	6	6	6	6
Somerset West	25	25	25	25	25	25
Stellenbosch	50	50	50	50	50	50
Velddrif	2	2	2	2	2	2
Vredenburg	6	6	6	6	6	6
Wellington	7	7	7	7	7	7
Worcester	9	9	9	9	9	9
Yzerfontein	4	4	4	4	4	4

Table 6

#### Analyse Each Neighbourhood

After obtaining a list of venues for each Neighbourhood the goal was to understand what were the most common venues across each of the respective areas, the below Table 7 provides a view for each of the areas that has been sorted to the 10 most occurring venue categories.

	Neighborhood	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue	6th Most Common Venue	7th Most Common Venue	8th Most Common Venue	9th Most Common Venue	10th Most Common Venue
0	Bettys Bay	Coffee Shop	Inn	Campground	Restaurant	River	Scenic Lookout	Park	Hostel	Football Stadium	French Restaurant
1	Cape Town	Scenic Lookout	Gift Shop	Café	Cable Car	Wine Shop	Flea Market	Department Store	Diner	Discount Store	Fast Food Restaurant
2	Ceres	Grocery Store	Breakfast Spot	Fast Food Restaurant	Burger Joint	Convenience Store	Department Store	Diner	Discount Store	Fish & Chips Shop	Flea Market
3	Franschhoek	Hotel	French Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Restaurant	Brewery	African Restaurant	Burger Joint	Italian Restaurant	Mediterranean Restaurant	Chocolate Shop
4	Gansbaai	Seafood Restaurant	Burger Joint	Harbor / Marina	Restaurant	Bed & Breakfast	Convenience Store	Shopping Mall	Wine Shop	Department Store	Diner
5	Grabouw	Grocery Store	Convenience Store	Department Store	Fried Chicken Joint	Discount Store	Shopping Mall	Flea Market	Deli / Bodega	Diner	Fast Food Restaurant
6	Kleinmond	Liquor Store	Gas Station	Beach	Grocery Store	Gastropub	Flea Market	Deli / Bodega	Department Store	Diner	Discount Store
7	Langebaan	Beach	Coffee Shop	Gastropub	Auto Workshop	Pub	Hotel	Restaurant	Convenience Store	Fast Food Restaurant	Seafood Restaurant
8	Malmesbury	Grocery Store	Breakfast Spot	Burger Joint	Fast Food Restaurant	Pizza Place	Gas Station	Fish & Chips Shop	Golf Course	Deli / Bodega	Department Store
9	Paarl	Restaurant	Gas Station	Wine Shop	Flea Market	Deli / Bodega	Department Store	Diner	Discount Store	Fast Food Restaurant	Fish & Chips Shop

Table 7

#### Cluster Neighbourhoods

To understand the different activities better across the different neighbourhoods, I have utilised the unsupervised learning K-means algorithm to cluster the neighbourhoods by the activities that can be performed in each one. A decision was made to use 5 clusters.

Once the clusters were obtained, they were then assigned to each of the Neighbourhoods that can be seen in Table 8 Below

	Neighborhood	Latitude	Longitude	Cluster_Labels	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue	6th Most Common Venue	7th Most Common Venue	8th Most Common Venue
0	Ceres	-33.368333	19.309167	3.0	Grocery Store	Breakfast Spot	Fast Food Restaurant	Burger Joint	Convenience Store	Department Store	Diner	Discount Store
1	Gansbaai	-34.582778	19.352222	0.0	Seafood Restaurant	Burger Joint	Harbor / Marina	Restaurant	Bed & Breakfast	Convenience Store	Shopping Mall	Wine Shop
2	Kleinmond	-34.338889	19.025278	3.0	Liquor Store	Gas Station	Beach	Grocery Store	Gastropub	Flea Market	Deli / Bodega	Department Store
3	Langebaan	-33.090717	18.034889	2.0	Beach	Coffee Shop	Gastropub	Auto Workshop	Pub	Hotel	Restaurant	Convenience Store
4	Malmesbury	-33.460278	18.723611	3.0	Grocery Store	Breakfast Spot	Burger Joint	Fast Food Restaurant	Pizza Place	Gas Station	Fish & Chips Shop	Golf Course

Table 8

Utilising the Longitude and Latitude coordinates for each of the regions, the classes were superimposed on to a map of the Western Cape utilising the python folium library, This can be viewed below in Image 3

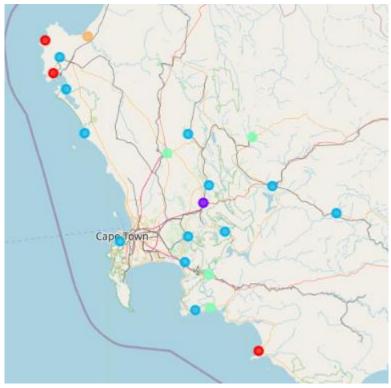


Image 3

## Examining the Clusters

#### Cluster 1

		Neighborhood	Cluster_Labels	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue	6th Most Common Venue	7th Most Common Venue	8th Most Common Venue	9th Most Common Venue	10th Most Common Venue
Ī	1	Gansbaai	0	Seafood Restaurant	Burger Joint	Harbor / Marina	Restaurant	Bed & Breakfast	Convenience Store	Shopping Mall	Wine Shop	Department Store	Diner
	5	Paternoster	0	Seafood Restaurant	Restaurant	Hotel	Pizza Place	Bar	Beach	Food & Drink Shop	Fried Chicken Joint	Gas Station	French Restaurant
	7	Saldanha	0	Convenience Store	Harbor / Marina	Travel & Transport	Athletics & Sports	Seafood Restaurant	Construction & Landscaping	Flea Market	Deli / Bodega	Department Store	Diner

Table 9

From the results obtained from the clustering algorithm, this was named the Seafood restaurant cluster and is denoted by the colour red per Image 3

#### Cluster 2

	Neighborhood	Cluster_Labels	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue	6th Most Common Venue	7th Most Common Venue	8th Most Common Venue	9th Most Common Venue	10th Most Common Venue
1	4 Paarl	1	Restaurant	Gas Station	Wine Shop	Flea Market	Deli / Bodega	Department Store	Diner	Discount Store	Fast Food Restaurant	Fish & Chips Shop

Table 10

This was named the Restaurant cluster and is denoted by the colour purple

#### Cluster 3

	Neighborhood	Cluster_Labels	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue	6th Most Common Venue	7th Most Common Venue	8th Most Common Venue	9th Most Common Venue	10th Most Common Venue
3	Langebaan	2	Beach	Coffee Shop	Gastropub	Auto Workshop	Pub	Hotel	Restaurant	Convenience Store	Fast Food Restaurant	Seafood Restaurant
6	Riebeek Valley	2	Wine Shop	Diner	Hotel	Shopping Mall	Food	Deli / Bodega	Department Store	Discount Store	Fast Food Restaurant	Fish & Chips Shop
8	Stellenbosch	2	Coffee Shop	Hotel	Bar	Restaurant	Sushi Restaurant	Gym	Café	Steakhouse	Food	Juice Bar
9	Vredenburg	2	Restaurant	Locksmith	Other Repair Shop	Department Store	Fast Food Restaurant	Wine Shop	Deli / Bodega	Diner	Discount Store	Fish & Chips Shop
10	Wellington	2	Fast Food Restaurant	Food & Drink Shop	Gas Station	Café	Burger Joint	Convenience Store	Flea Market	Department Store	Diner	Discount Store
11	Worcester	2	Fast Food Restaurant	Pizza Place	Steakhouse	Gas Station	Hotel	Restaurant	Café	Grocery Store	Bed & Breakfast	Food & Drink Shop
12	Bettys Bay	2	Coffee Shop	Inn	Campground	Restaurant	River	Scenic Lookout	Park	Hostel	Football Stadium	French Restaurant
15	Robertson	2	Supermarket	Breakfast Spot	Burger Joint	Pharmacy	Gas Station	Hotel	Coffee Shop	Bed & Breakfast	Fast Food Restaurant	Café
17	Yzerfontein	2	Beach	Deli / Bodega	Restaurant	Wine Shop	Food	Department Store	Diner	Discount Store	Fast Food Restaurant	Fish & Chips Shop
18	Franschhoek	2	Hotel	French Restaurant	Coffee Shop	Restaurant	Brewery	African Restaurant	Burger Joint	Italian Restaurant	Mediterranean Restaurant	Chocolate Shop
19	Somerset West	2	Restaurant	Café	Coffee Shop	Golf Course	Grocery Store	Fast Food Restaurant	Indian Restaurant	Italian Restaurant	Mobile Phone Shop	Nightclub
20	Cape Town	2	Scenic Lookout	Gift Shop	Café	Cable Car	Wine Shop	Flea Market	Department Store	Diner	Discount Store	Fast Food Restaurant

Table 11

The results from Cluster 3 does not seem to have any form of unifying theme to it so it will be classified as general and is denoted by the colour blue

#### Cluster 4

	Neighborhood	Cluster_Labels	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue	6th Most Common Venue	7th Most Common Venue	8th Most Common Venue	9th Most Common Venue	10th Most Common Venue
0	Ceres	3	Grocery Store	Breakfast Spot	Fast Food Restaurant	Burger Joint	Convenience Store	Department Store	Diner	Discount Store	Fish & Chips Shop	Flea Market
2	Kleinmond	3	Liquor Store	Gas Station	Beach	Grocery Store	Gastropub	Flea Market	Deli / Bodega	Department Store	Diner	Discount Store
4	Malmesbury	3	Grocery Store	Breakfast Spot	Burger Joint	Fast Food Restaurant	Pizza Place	Gas Station	Fish & Chips Shop	Golf Course	Deli / Bodega	Department Store
13	Grabouw	3	Grocery Store	Convenience Store	Department Store	Fried Chicken Joint	Discount Store	Shopping Mall	Flea Market	Deli / Bodega	Diner	Fast Food Restaurant

Table 12

This was named the General retail cluster as the most common items are Grocery stores and liquor stores and is denoted by the colour green

#### Cluster 5

	Neighborhood	Cluster_Labels	1st Most Common Venue	2nd Most Common Venue	3rd Most Common Venue	4th Most Common Venue	5th Most Common Venue	6th Most Common Venue	7th Most Common Venue	8th Most Common Venue	9th Most Common Venue	10th Most Common Venue
16	Velddrif	4	Coffee Shop	Fish & Chips Shop	Wine Shop	Convenience Store	Department Store	Diner		Fast Food Restaurant	Flea Market	Food

Table 13

This was named the Coffee shop cluster as these seem to be the most prevalent venue here and is denoted by the colour orange.

#### Results

The final results of the two problem areas that were defined above, where should I stay and what activities am I able to do in relation to where I stay, at a high level can be viewed in the choropleth map (Image 4) below, This is depicted by the coloured dots on the map, their classifications are as follows:

- Seafood restaurant (red)
- Restaurant (purple)
- General (blue)
- General Retail (light green)
- Coffee shops (orange)

From an accommodation perspective the average price per area ranges from R562 to about R978 across the different regions, where the darker being more expensive. However, this provides a very high-level grouping of the accommodation at hand. A further detailed study of the accommodation in each of the areas can be viewed in the appendix below.

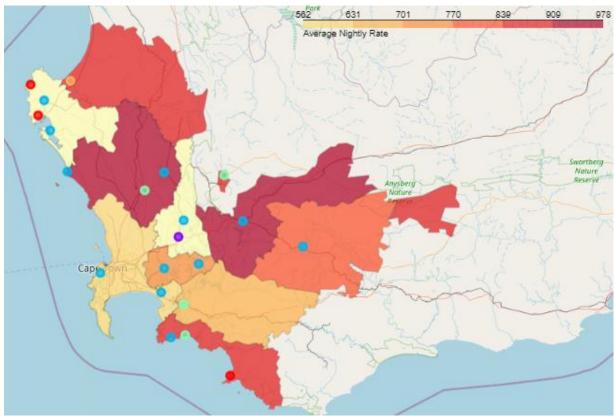


Image 4

#### Discussion

The Two questions that I set out to answer when starting this project where the following:

- What are my options on things that I can do?
- Where should I stay in relation to the activities that I want to perform and what is a reasonable price that I can spend on accommodation.

Dealing with the accommodation question first, this area focused on Air Bnb to provide the data, which only caters for people who are prepared utilise their product offering, however the data did provide much insight into the question, and what I found was that much of the pricing does centre in a range of R500 to R1000 range with outliers both above and below. This to me means that there is a large spread of pricing on offer for all people concerned in each of the areas. I also found that the average pricing per area can be distorted by the outliers.

In addition to the above piece of work I performed a further in depth analysis(refer Appendix A) of each of the areas to understand the pricing better and what I found is that in some areas where there is more than one neighbourhood and when analysing each of the neighbourhoods against one another there is often a disparity in

pricing between them, the one area (more well-known) generally has a higher pricing than the other, this provides useful insight in that by performing this additional analysis you may get better value for your money in the less popular areas.

Options on things to do, with having a bit of background to this area, if found that data that was provided by Four Square to be insufficient to adequately have any definitive bearing in providing answers to this question, to support my answer I went and viewed things to do on Trip advisor for one or two of the areas and found a large selection that was not present in Four Square. I was unfortunately unable to obtain the information from Trip advisor. I also found that the data provided by Four Square dealt more with general day to day activities and did not cater much towards potential visitor requirements, as can be seen by the cluster classifications.

As mentioned above this type of study lends itself to additional data requirements and additional data sources to be able to better answer and provide more value to the above questions. To achieve this, I would include the following data sources:

- From personal experience I know that the Western Cape is known as the wine Region within South Africa and there seems to be a distinct lack of data pertaining to this, thus more research on wine farms would need to be performed and included.
- If it is possible the data from Trip advisor would add a lot of content and valuable information to this study.
- As Air Bnb was the only source that I used for accommodation I feel that additional sources would need to be utilised to provide a more rounder view of the accommodation options and pricing, like what hotels are available to stay at, possible place to go camping and additional self-catering options.

#### Conclusion

In summary the answers that I achieved the to the questions that I outlined in the beginning are as follows: What are my options on things that I can do?

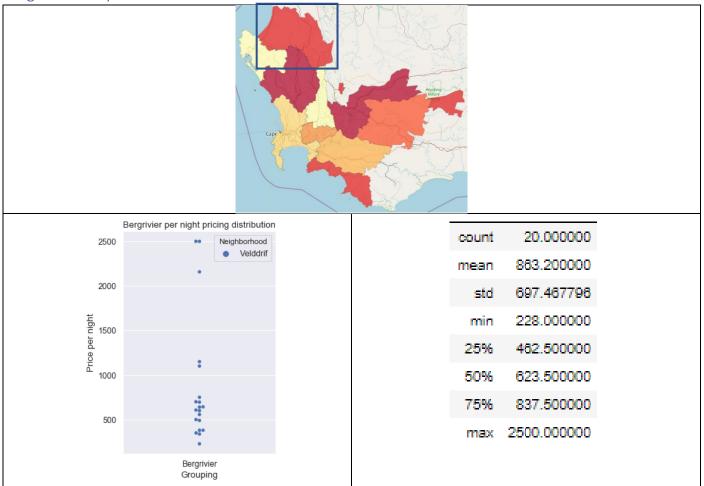
As mentioned above I found the data here was inconclusive, but from the data that was available I was able to obtain 5 classifications across the area under study, which were Seafood restaurants, Restaurants, General, General retail and Coffee shops. More data is required to provide more value-add options in this space.

Where should I stay in relation to the activities that I want to perform and what is a reasonable price that I can spend on accommodation?

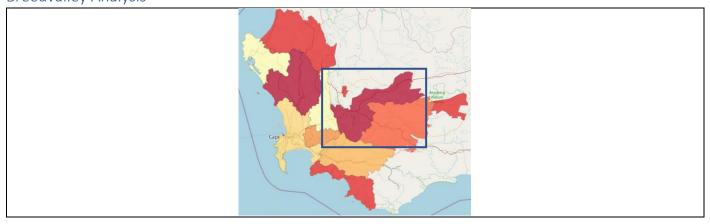
I found this piece of work quite insightful and found that there are areas that differ from an average pricing perspective, however most of the options with in each of the areas reside in the R500 to R1000 range. In further analysing each of the areas it was found that there was a price premium on accommodation for the more well-known areas.

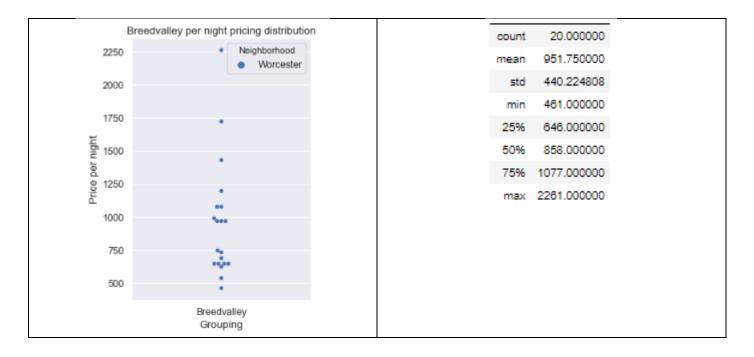
## Appendix A

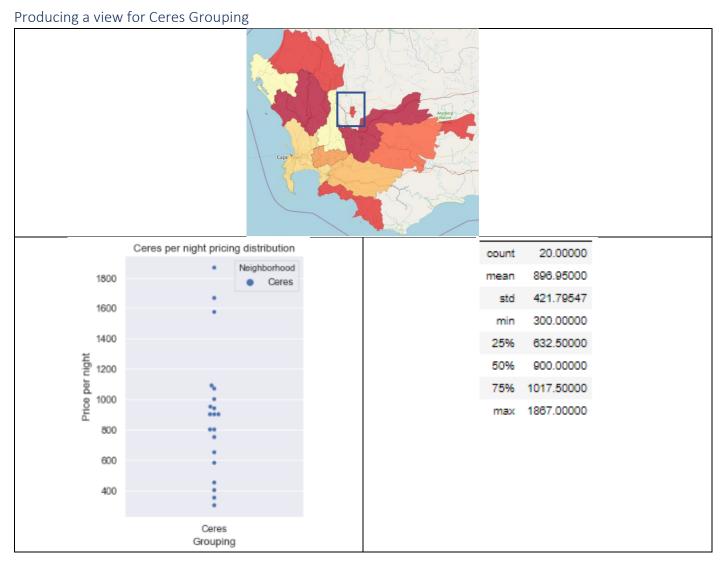
## Bergrivier Analysis



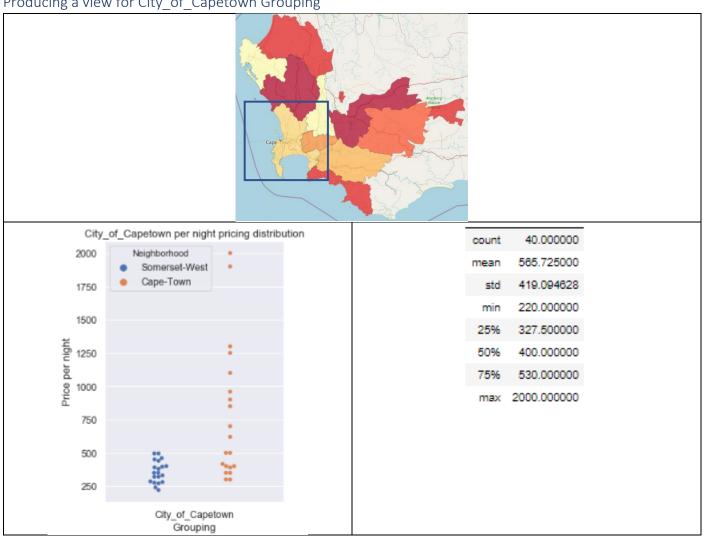
## Breedvalley Analysis



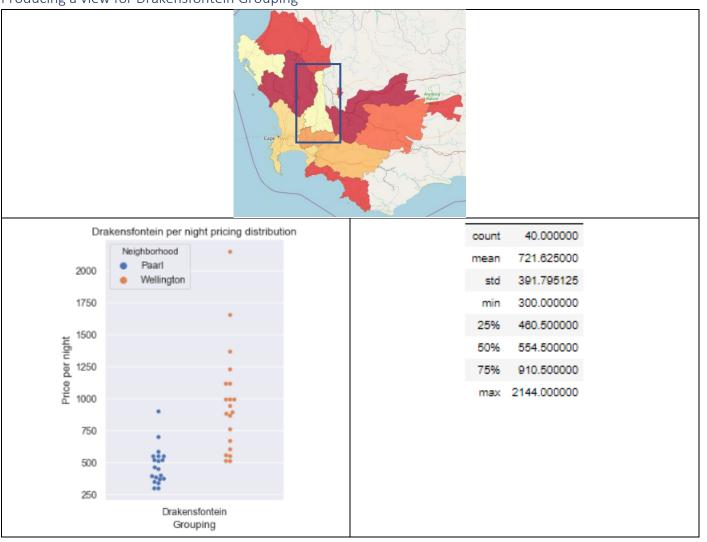




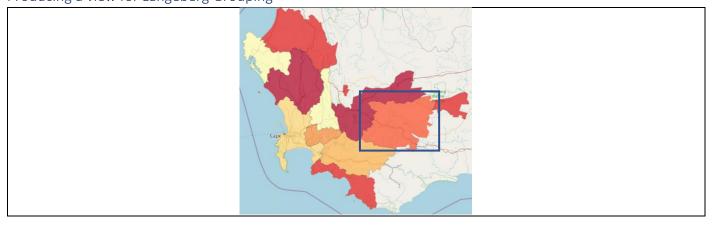
## Producing a view for City\_of\_Capetown Grouping

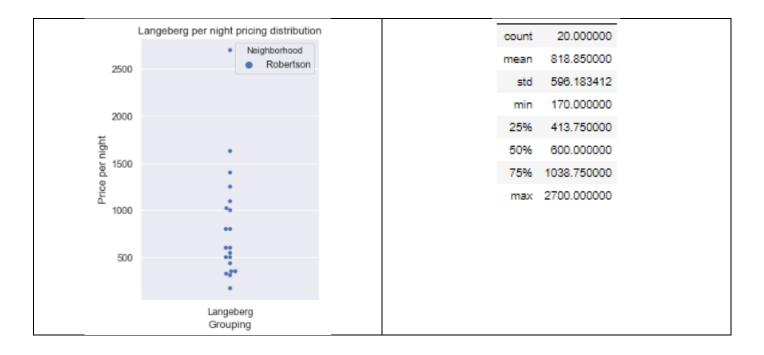


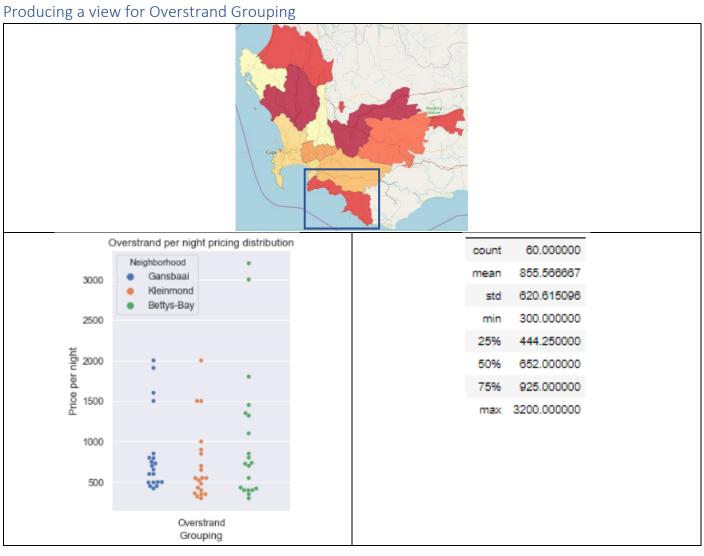
## Producing a view for Drakensfontein Grouping



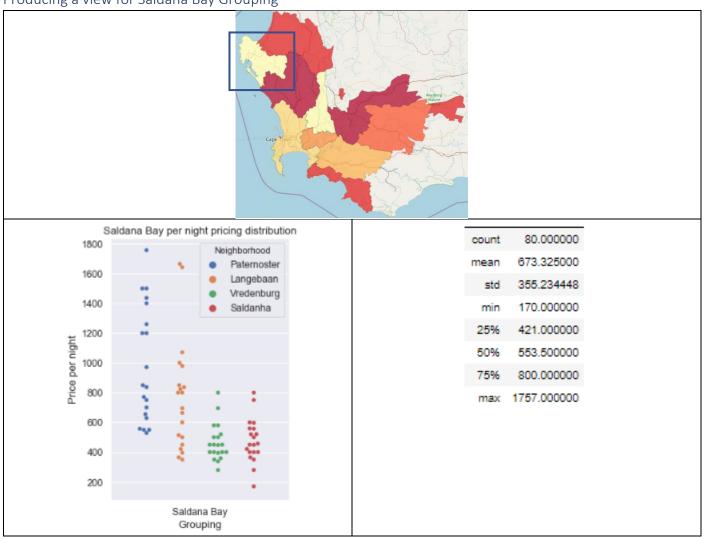
## Producing a view for Langeberg Grouping



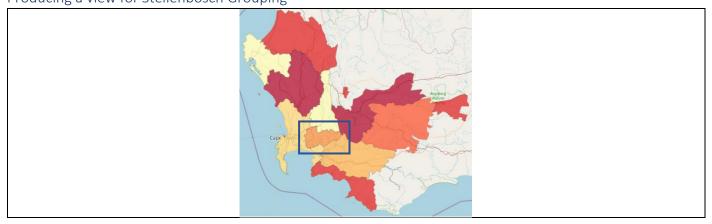


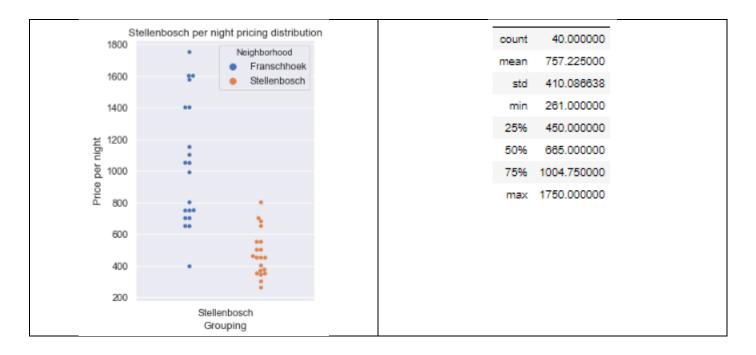


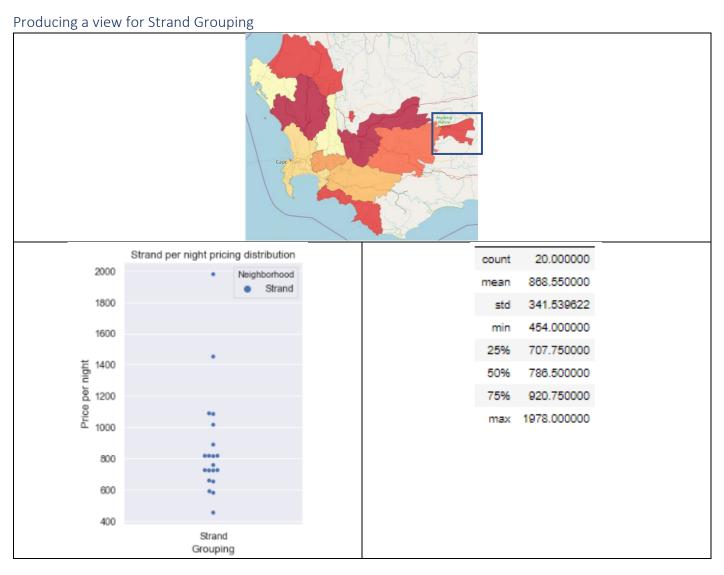
## Producing a view for Saldana Bay Grouping



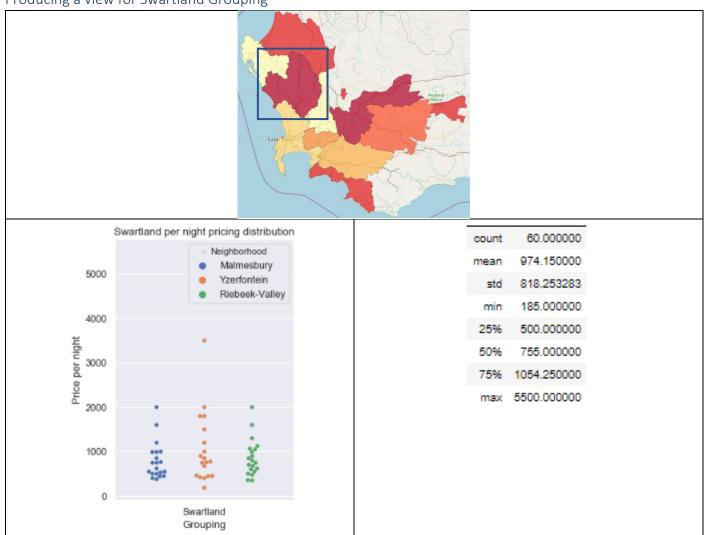
## Producing a view for Stellenbosch Grouping







## Producing a view for Swartland Grouping



## Producing a view for Theewaterskloof Grouping

