

A rock and hard places

Point, emerged from the ancient Adamastor Ocean. Over millions of

years, sediments filled the ocean, folded, and eroded, leaving three distinct rock formations. About 20 million years later, molten magma intruded into the oldest formation, cooling into granite and eventually emerging due to erosion. This Granite Suite forms the base of the Cape Peninsula. Above it, two more sedimentary layers were deposited. The youngest rock type at Cape Point consists of aeolianites, or dune rocks, representing surface deposits.

While not all rock formations of Cape Point are observable, the Cape Granite Suite is visible at the tip of Cape Point and the left corner of Smitswinkel Bay. However, due to the Smitswinkel fault, the rock formations have shifted downward within the reserve. Consequently, the granite lies beneath sea level, with only the Graafwater, Peninsula, and Langebaan Formations remaining visible.

The Table Mountain Group's **Peninsula Formation** The Cape Peninsula's predominant sedimentary formation (490-410 million years old) is a tough, thick quartz-rich sandstone created by swift southward-flowing rivers.

Group's Graafwater Formation Above the Cape Granite, these mudstones and quartz sandstones are evident at Cape Point's tip and Dias Beach. Around 490 million years ago, southwardflowing rivers deposited them. In dry spells, floodplain muds

were exposed to air, resulting in a

The Table Mountain

The False Bay Dolerite Ovke Swarm This black igneous rock intruded the older rocks when the Supercontinent Gondwana broke up. It can be found at Smitswinkel

Bay and Dias Beach.

The Sandveld Group's **Langebaan Formation** The most recent rock type, aeolianites, consists of quartz sand grains and shell fragments cemented with calcite. Deposited approximately 200,000 years ago, they formed due to summer southeasterly winds. These limestones are observable at Bordjiesdrif and

The scenic route Around 1450, the powerful Ottoman Empire controlled the eastern Mediterranean, throttling the traditional Spice Route from Asia to Europe. European traders needed to find alternative routes to compete, prompting the search for a different route to the East. Two options emerged: venturing westward or circumnavigating Africa.

European maritime powers explored new lands and established settlements along the way. Had the Ottoman Empire kept the Silk and Spice Route open, history would be very different, affecting the Americas, Africa, the slave trade, and colonisation.

Sailors from Europe, the Middle East, and India had gradually explored Africa's coastline. Stories of ancient Phoenicians and the Greek navigator Eudoxus circled throughout the naval world.

By 1400, the Portuguese crossed the equator, and Diego Cao reached Namibia in 1485. In January 1488, Bartolomeu Dias embarked on a ground-breaking maritime expedition commissioned by King John II of Portugal. His ship was thwarted by a storm, leading him to Mossel Bay. His later journey in May revealed Cape Point's splendour. There, he erected Pachao De Sao Filipe Stone Cross to claim the territory. He named it 'Cape of Storms' and later 'Cape of Good Hope.' Though Vasco da Gama would complete the journey in 1497, Dias opened the route, shaping Europe's dominance for centuries.



A Cape of plenty At Cape Point, Bartolomeu Dias discovered an ancient peninsula with rocks formed 560 million years ago in an ancient sea. Over time, these deposits turned into solid rock through heat and pressure, with molten magma intruding and forming granite. Erosion and tectonic events, like the forming of the Supercontinent Gondwana, shaped the landscape. creating Table Mountain and the Cape Peninsula. Despite millions of years of erosion, the mountain range remains strong due to its

Dias unknowingly discovered the Cape Floral Kingdom, rich in diverse species adapted to the region's harsh conditions. Nutrient-poor soil influenced both plant and animal life. fostering delicate partnerships for pollination. While Cape Point lacks the abundant wildlife of an African safari, smaller animals like porcupines, klipspringers, and baboons thrive. Some animals have been reintroduced and herbivores visit feeding lawns due to the area's limited

Parallel people

Around 20,000 years ago, during a Glacial Maximum, Cape Point was surrounded by land and even had access to larger game due to a dry False Bay. The region also transitioned between being an island and being connected to the mainland over millions of years.

Before the Europeans reached the Cape, KhoiKhoi groups roamed and utilised the land. The historical records reveal that various Khoikhoi groups were wealthy in terms of cattle ownership, with herds ranging from hundreds to over 1000 head. Managing these large herds required extensive knowledge of the land, seasonal grazing patterns, and water resources. Contrary to being nomadic, the Khoikhoi practiced transhumance, strategically moving between landscapes based on seasons and grazing quality. Survival in the Cape depended on a deep understanding of the landscape and seasonal variations.

The Cape's diverse geology and climate, with dry summers and lush winters, influenced the Khoikhoi's movements based on rainfall areas crucial for their cattle's water needs. Unique soil compositions in the Cape impacted cattle farming, with some areas supporting good grazing, while others, like Table Mountain Sandstone-derived soils, were inadequate. Major Khoikhoi visits to Table Bay aligned with summer rainfall patterns on the Peninsula.

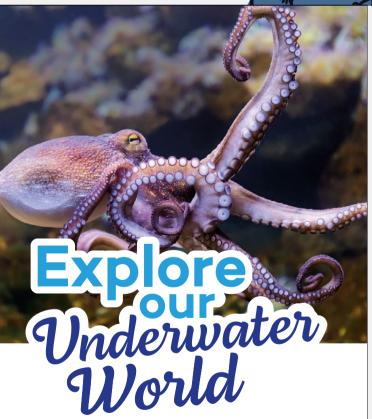
Contrary to Dutch perceptions, the Khoikhoi considered cattle integral to their way of life, wealth, transportation, and a vital source of milk. Cattle were seldom slaughtered, leading to conflicts with the Dutch, who sought large volumes for trade.



20. Boulders Beach

22. Miller's Point Tidal Pool

21. Partridge Point



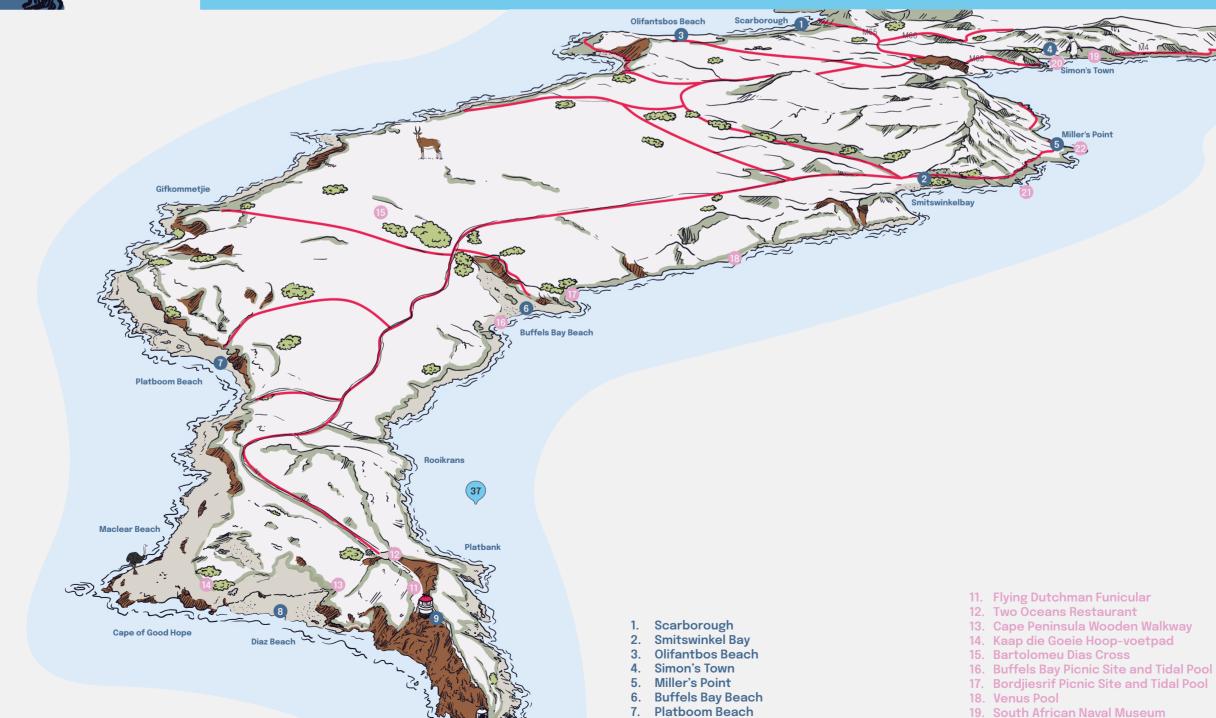
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Diaz Beach

9. Cape Point Lighthouse (original)

10. Cape Point Lighthouse (current)



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4-Simon's Town

Located 35km outside

Cape Town, is one of

South Africa's oldest

towns and a captivating

maritime history. Home

Navy, the town hosts an

annual festival in April.

A visit to Simon's Town

appreciate its charm.

The town is famous for

its beautiful beaches,

historical landmarks,

and a thriving colony

of African penguins.

Quaint buildings line

from the train station

to Jubilee Square, set

against a backdrop

of scenic mountains

trails. The coastal

promenade offers

with numerous hiking

breathtaking sea views

and the opportunity to

spot whales between

June and November

excellent restaurants,

craft markets, and

making it an ideal

destination for both

Simon's Town also boasts

family-friendly activities

relaxation and adventure.

the historical mile

requires a full day to fully

destination with a rich

to the South African

The Colonials

The relationship between the Khoikhoi and European mariners, particularly the Dutch, was often strained despite a general norm of respectful trade. While the balance of power favoured the Khoikhoi, peaceful trade was crucial for both parties due to the Europeans' reliance on the Cape's resources. An incident in 1510 involving the Portuguese Viceroy, Francisco D'Almeida, highlighted the Khoikhoi's intolerance for unfair conduct. D'Almeida's death, resulting from a Khoikhoi attack, showcased the significance the Khoikhoi placed on their cattle and independence. As Dutch mariners arrived at the Cape, the experience of the Haarlem wreck survivors led to positive reports, prompting the Dutch East India Company (DEIC) to establish a permanent station for cattle trading, farming, and supplying passing ships. However, when Jan van Riebeeck founded the fort at Table Bay in 1652, he lacked an understanding of the Khoikhoi's value of cattle. This lack of comprehension fueled future conflicts as the DEIC sought to expand its farming activities into Khoikhoi grazing areas.

Autshumato, a middleman between the Khoikhoi and Europeans, played a crucial but precarious role. The Peninsula Khoikhoi, caught between the Dutch and more powerful Khoikhoi groups, sought protection from van Riebeeck against the latter. As the DEIC expanded its farming, the uneasy relationship with the Peninsula Khoikhoi grew evident. Van Riebeeck's frustration in obtaining the desired number of cattle and the Khoikhoi's concerns about permanent settlement led to conflicts over communal grazing land.

The DEIC's strategy evolved to include freeburghers (independent farmers) farming for the company. This concept was foreign to the Khoikhoi, causing tensions as their communal grazing land diminished. The Dutch retaliated to Khoikhoi resistance, leading to violent confrontations. The balance of power shifted, and a physical barrier was constructed to control the movement of cattle, symbolizing the growing dominance of the Dutch. Despite a peace agreement in 1659, the underlying tensions remained, and the DEIC continued to exert control over the Peninsula's resources.



The new locals By the late 1700s, the Khoi had departed from Cape Point. The next humans to explore this land were isolation-seeking explorers like Pietersen, a coloured man who cleared 2 spots at Smitswinkel kloof and built a small house. This was the first person to settle in Simon's Town. The town expanded with the railway's arrival in 1890.

In 1743, adverse winter storms prompted the Dutch East India Company to shift their anchorage from Table Bay to Simon's Bay, leading to the division of land for nearby farms to supply the harbour.

By the early 1800s, Cape Point was divided into main farms, with Buffelsfontein being the largest and most productive. While the term "farm" is used loosely, the region was unsuitable for traditional farming due to the challenging terrain and soil. Sea shells, abundant in Cape Point, became a valuable resource, as burning them produced calcium powder, known as lime, used for building exteriors

Buffelsfontein, owned by John McKellar in 1855, played a central role in lime production. McKellar, a Scotsman, implemented improvements and introduced ostriches to the area. Buffelsfontein changed hands and became part of Table Mountain National Park in 1939.

Wildskutsbrand Farm, first mentioned in 1738, holds historical significance. Originally granted for sheep grazing to George Schoester, it later came into the possession

of Johannes Soublee, a Swiss credited for saving a shipwrecked crew. The farmhouse incorporates parts of the ship's deck.

A lighthouse moment Amid increasing shipwrecks, a lighthouse project commenced in 1859, driven by an idea dating back to 1816. Alexander Gordon designed the iron lighthouse, assembled on Cape Point Peak. Initially, its location and the heavy fog of the area hindered its effectiveness. Debate over its placement lasted years until the Lusitania tragedy in 1911 spurred action. Engineer Harold Cooper led the endeavour, carving paths to the cliff and completing the lighthouse in 1919. Paraffin powered it until electrification in 1936. Lighthouse keepers endured harsh conditions, and one even manually replicated the light's flashes for three days when unable to obtain the proper mantle.

A place worth preserving By the early 1900s, Cape Point properties shifted from farming to recreation, catching the attention of property developers Concerned locals, including Dr. S.H. 'Stacey' Skaife and Brian Mansergh, advocated for a nature reserve to protect this unspoiled sanctuary. The pivotal land, owned by the Smiths of Smith's Farm, was crucial. Despite resistance from the Cape Town City Council, a Cape Point Preservation Society was established in 1938, and the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve was declared in 1938. Contributions from individuals like the Hare family and reduced-price land sales from the Smiths made the reserve possible. In 1998, the Cape

of Good Hope became part of Table Mountain National Park, officially renamed in 2004

Schonland, was established at

Cape Point in 1941, initially operated

by men and later by women (they

While the radar deterred enemy

did a far more efficient job).

submarines, it never actually

detected any at the Point.

The stuff of legend

Greek mythology comes alive at

before gods like Zeus and Hades.

wreaked havoc until overthrown

Gods. Banished Titans, including

Atlas and Helios, endured fates like

holding up the sky or driving the

sun. Adamastor, a Titan, became

the jagged mountain of Cape Point

where storms reflect his anger.

The famed legend of the ghost

ship, "The Flying Dutchman", began

at Cape Point in 1641. According to

the legend, Captain Hendrick van

der Decken's ship sank in a storm

by their own children, the Greek

Cape Point, tracing back to the time

Twelve Titans, born of earth and sky,

to sail eternally with a ghostly crew, he brings death to those who spot On the lookout his ship. Sailors claim sighting the Flying Dutchman leads to demise. The outbreak of World War II brought significant military Surprisingly, many of them have activity to Cape Point and a swift made official sightings and lived to tell the tale. Among them are end to celebrations over the new park. Recognising its strategic members of the Royal Navy, several lighthouse keepers and even the importance as a vital shipping route, various military installations crew of a German U-boat. A safer including observation, signal, and version of the Flying Dutchman is available at Cape Point. The radar stations were set up, some predating WWI. Historical relics reserve's funicular shares only its like an old Dutch-era cannon were name with the cursed vessel and discovered, and military operations offers visitors a comfortable ride to during both world wars left craters Cape Point's peak still visible today. The first South Plant life Sightings African radar station, designed by radar technology expert Basil

With 1080 species, Cape Point boasts one of the highest concentrations of plant species for similar sized areas in the world. It has more plant varieties than all of Britain. Among these is the indigenous flora, fynbos. These plants, one of just six floral kingdoms in the world, are best enjoyed up close. Delight in the perfection of the tiny flowers when hiking on the reserve.

due to his defiance of God and his

decision to sail into the bay. Cursed



1-Scarborough 3-Olifantbos Located just beyond Kommetjie, is a Cape Town suburb that has managed to maintain its peaceful and unspoiled character despite its proximity to the city and a recent property boom. This conservation village is scattered with houses and beach homes nestled amidst the steep mountains of Slangkop and Red Hill, providing breathtaking views of the roaring Atlantic waves. Scarborough's residents, a mix of musicians, writers, artists, and professionals have preserved the easygoing lifestyle that defines the area.

2-Smitswinkelbay

Affectionately known as Convenient parking is "Smits" by locals, this bay is secluded and tucked away along the coastal route between Simon's Town and the Cape Point Nature Reserve entrance. The name "Smitswinkel" originates from the Afrikaans term for "Smith's shop," dating back to 1744, though its exact relevance remains a mystery. Initially named "Patience" due to the slow stream feeding the bay, Smitswinkel was accessible only by boat in the past. Presently, it lacks electricity, cellphone reception roads, streetlights, and shops, so visitors must come well-prepared for a day at the beach Smitswinkel offers soft white sands, clea waters, scattered granit

Beach Located next to Cape Point Nature Reserve Olifantbos offers more than just a beautiful beach experience Surrounded by stunn natural scenery and breathtaking views, this beach is a must visit destination. It's particularly popular among local surfers benefiting from the South Easterly winds of Cape Town, which create ideal swell conditions for riding the point break. If you prefer land-based activities, there are well-marked beach walks and hiking trails to explore, including the scenic Sirkelsvlei walk

Shipwreck trail.

available, and there are ablution facilities for boulders, and a view of False Bay.

5-Miller's Point 6-Buffels Bay Around 5 kilometers Beach south of Simon's Town en route to Cape Point, offers a stunning coastal experience with a narrow strip of land wedged between mountains and the sea. It's the final easily accessible bay before Cape Point, and the road meanders amid imposing boulders. Notable turn-offs include one leading to the Miller's Point caravan site and the acclaimed seafood restaurant, the Black Marlin, while the other leads to Rumbly Bay, featuring boat launch

sites and a hidden tidal pool. Further along, more launch sites and diving spots await. The secluded tidal pool, tucked between these sites, provides a serene swimming spot with water slides and breathtaking bay views With a history dating back to a whaling station in 1825, Miller's Point now resides within Table Mountain National Park and is famed for whalewatching, particularly southern right whales

deep pools.

Did you know?

Cape Town's beaches are amongst the cleanest and most beautiful beaches in the world

Within Cape Point Nature Reserve in Cape Town, this bay offers a secluded and sheltered environment. The beach has numerous tidal pools for children to explore. This peaceful spot is ideal for relaxation after a hike or bike ride in the reserve, and you can take a refreshing dip in the water before heading home. For those who forget their picnic, the Two Oceans Restaurant at Cape Point is a convenient dining option, offering spectacular views of False Bay from

this pristine beach. 7-Platboom Beach Approximately 65 km from Cape Town's center along the M3. This beautiful beach is known for its diverse wildlife, including various animals and abundant birdlife. It's a hotspot for kite surfing and windsurfing due to favourable riding conditions, but swimmers should exercise caution as large often spotted in nearby waves are common, and on duty. Platboom

there are no lifeguards Beach's pristine landscape makes it a haven for photographers and nature enthusiasts, with opportunities to capture wildlife and the stunning waters. Additionally, visitors can enjoy sandboarding down the dunes and exploring the rocky areas along the beach, which create intriguing rock pools to

ANIMALS SIGHTINGS

Cape Point is home to a colourful collection of wildlife, many of which can be spotted on its hiking trails. Various mammals, like the Cape Mountain zebra.

common eland and bontebok all call Cape Point home. The Chacma baboon

is the most southerly primate in the world and visitors should proceed with

binoculars. Cape Point counts over 250 avian species within its limits, many

of them endemic to the area. The areas wildlife population doesn't end where

the cliffs do. Like Hermanus to the east, Cape Point is renowned for southern

right whale sightings during whale season (June-October). Cape fur seals

caution when around them. Bird lovers should remember to bring their

Situated at Cape Point sits a secluded and captivating destination, cherished by locals and frequent visitors to Cape Town, Accessible via a 20-minute hike down (and a longer climb back up), this beach offers a romantic and pristine setting that rewards those willing to make the effort. It's advisable to arrive early and spend the entire day enjoying the beach. As you stand on the shore, you can't help but reflect on the intrepid explorers who once sailed these stormy waters. The contrast of dark jagged rocks and pristine white sands adds to the beach's allure While swimming is discouraged due to strong currents, it's a fantastic spot for surfers and bodyboarders. For a romantic stroll with breathtaking views, Diaz Beach is the ideal choice, and don't forget your camera to capture the stunning scenery.

8-Diaz Beach



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and bottlenose dolphins can be spotted off the coast throughout the year.



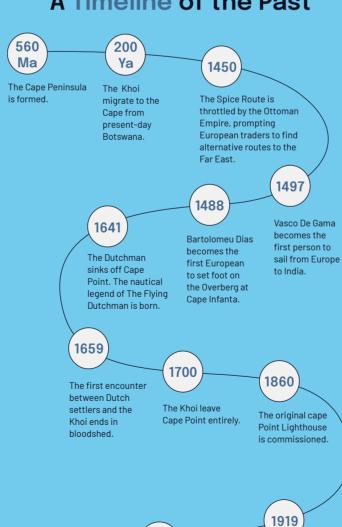
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A Timeline of the Past



1938

1960

Bontebok are

reintroduced to Cape

Point to save them

from extinction.

The Cape of Good Hope

Nature Reserve (now

National Park) is

The Cape of Good Hope is

Mountain National Park.

1998

incorporated into the Table

established.

part of Table Mountain

1919 The current Cape Point lighthouse is finished and You Are Here

ARTS & CULTURE

PLANT LIFE SIGHTINGS

With 1080 species, Cape Point boasts one of the highest concentrations varieties than all of Britain. Among these is the indigenous flora, fynbos



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The Cape Peninsula: Treasury of Travel Series by T.V. Bulpin 5 Reasons Why Cape Point is one of Nature's Great Places - Matthew Stearne, RhinoAfrica.com

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using the past myth and history in simon's town: https://disa.ukzn.ac.za/sites/default/files/ DC%20Metadata%20Files/Gandhi-Luthuli%20Documentation%20Centre/D0C%20366-28/ DOC%20366-28.pdf

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Lighthouses of **Cape Point**

9-Cape Point (Original) Built in 1860, this 8m tall circular

10-Cape Point (Current)

In 1919, a new 9m tall square masonry lighthouse with a white lantern house was constructed on Diaz Point, standing at 87m above sea level. It replaced the original lighthouse due to its flawed location. The light emits a composite group of 3 flashes every 30 seconds, with a remarkable range of 63 nautical miles, making it the brightest light along the South African coast, shining at 10 million candelas..