

WHAT'S YOUR BUDGET ♦ CAPE TOWN

THE WORD ABOUT CAPE TOWN

The buzz around Cape Town's cosmopolitan charms and cheap-as-chips price tag has been building to a dull roar this year as travellers bump South Africa's legislative capital up a few steps on their bucket lists.

Cape Town is ranked the third-cheapest city in the world for a short break according to TripAdvisor, and Tourism CEO Enver Duminy says South Africa represents a fantastic alternative to travelling to Europe or the US.

"Travelling to South Africa takes less time, and the exchange rate is favourable. High season is fantastic, as it's summer holiday time and there's a sense that everyone is on holiday. Cape Town has a mild, Mediterranean climate, so the weather is usually pleasant."

Cradled by the contours of Table Mountain, and flanking the (somewhat chilly) Atlantic Ocean, each of the city's neighbourhoods and beaches has something different to offer. "The CBD and Sea Point are close to many attractions and have a vibrant night-life... Durbanville in the northern suburbs is close to wine farms and nature (and) the Southern Peninsula has amazing beaches," Duminy says.

CELESTE MITCHELL



AFFORDABLE

**THE MOJO HOTEL
OVERNIGHT RATE
R643 (\$A59, DOUBLE CRASH PAD)**

If you're just looking for a place to crash after days packed with wine tasting, shark diving and hiking, hostel-hotel hybrid Mojo in Sea Point is perfect. With rooms ranging from seven-bed dorms (with ensuites), up to family rooms and loft-style studios, there's something for everyone. The 12sq m rooftop Crash Pads might be tiny but still offer sea or mountain views, TV and Wi-Fi. Vivacious murals, prismatic wooden lightshades and bean bags set the scene in the lobby and carry through to the modern communal kitchen. There's also a 24-hour coffee shop in the lobby and a rooftop terrace for sunset drinks. Hire one of their bikes to explore the promenade – the first hour is free – and organise the rest of your city explorations at the travel desk.

THEMOJOHOTEL.COM



MID-RANGE

**CAPE HERITAGE HOTEL
OVERNIGHT RATE
R3095 (\$A285, STANDARD ROOM)**

This charming, historic hotel in the centre of Durbanville harks back to the 1780s, with its central courtyard shaded by the oldest-known fruit-bearing grapevine in South Africa. Each of the 15 bedrooms is individually designed and comes with stylish comforts like roll-top deep bathtubs, king beds and international power points. Breakfast is included and room service is available, as are gourmet picnic hampers to take out exploring; perhaps for sunset on Signal Hill or a summer concert in Kirstenbosch National Botanic Gardens. After a day exploring the Victoria & Albert (V&A) Waterfront precinct (a short walk away), settle into the rooftop hot tub then make a booking at one of the restaurants in Heritage Square.

CAPEHERITAGE.CO.ZA



TOP END

**THE SILO HOTEL
OVERNIGHT RATE
R12500 (\$A1155, DOUBLE ROOM)**

Set to be one of the most impressive and luxurious developments in Cape Town, The Silo Hotel won't open until March 2017 but bookings are being taken now. Towering above the V&A Waterfront, the hotel is being built into the elevator shafts of a disused 57m grain silo, occupying six floors above what will become the Zitz Museum of Contemporary Art. During your stay, you'll be able to quaff champagne in the rooftop bar, splash about in the rooftop glass swimming pool, take tea overlooking Table Mountain, enjoy a private tour of the museum or settle in for an evening in the piano bar. From the outside, pillowed glazing panels will create a modern geometry in the industrial relic, with interiors designed by renowned South African hotelier, Liz Biden.

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