



# Western Cape

## Includes »

Winelands.....	96
The Overberg .....	111
Route 62 .....	122
Garden Route .....	136
Central Karoo .....	151
West Coast & Swartland .....	154

## Best Places to Eat

- » Tasting Room (p105)
- » Die Strandloper (p156)
- » Jessica's (p132)
- » Bosman's Restaurant (p109)
- » Old Gaol on Church Square (p121)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Phantom Forest Eco-Reserve (p145)
- » Grootbos Private Nature Reserve (p117)
- » Nothando Backpackers Hostel (p149)
- » Beaverlac (p159)
- » Ballinderry Guesthouse (p126)

## Why Go?

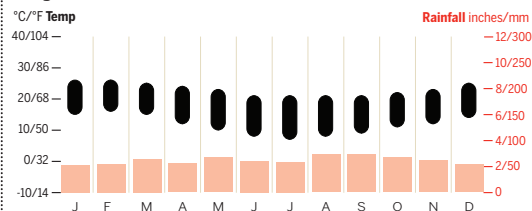
The splendours of the Western Cape lie not only in its world-class vineyards, its stunning beaches and its mountains, but also in its lesser known regions, such as the wide-open spaces of the Karoo, the nature reserves and wilderness areas. Make sure you get out into these wild, less-visited areas for birdwatching and wildlife adventure as well as pure relaxation under vast skies.

The Western Cape offers a huge range of activities, from sedate endeavours such as wine tasting or scenic drives to more hair-raising encounters such as skydiving or rock climbing.

The melting pot of cultures of the region begs to be explored. Khoe-San rock art is at its best in the Cederberg mountains and there are some fine opportunities to visit black townships and be entranced by the fascinating culture of the Xhosa people.

## When to Go

### Knysna



**Feb-Mar & Nov** Temperatures are perfect, not too hot to hike but still beach weather.

**Jun-Aug** Whale-watching season begins; flowers bloom on the West Coast.

**Dec-Jan** Prices rise and visitor numbers increase. Hot days and abundant festivals.



## Western Cape Highlights

**1** Hiking the **Knysna** (p143) forests or feasting on oysters (p146) along the lagoon

**2** Watching whales from the cliffs in **Hermanus** (p114) or the dunes of **De Hoop Nature Reserve** (p119)

**3** Exploring Khoe-San culture in the **Cederberg Wilderness Area** (p158), where you can hike past bizarre rock formations

**4** Following Rte 62 to the ostrich capital, **Oudtshoorn** (p133), then taking the remarkable **Swartberg Pass** (p151) to enjoy Karoo hospitality in **Prince Albert** (p151)