

GOING PLACES

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Place to Meet
ELANDS BAY

Surf's up!

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ELANDS BAY

Elands Bay is one of those gems that has managed to escape the rush of development and city dwellers to stake their claim on a piece of the West Coast - this is sand and sea with little else to lure the average holiday maker. The modest seaside town is worth the two hour journey from Cape Town, particularly as Verlorenvlei (lost natural wetland) - one of the biggest estuaries on the Cape West Coast region with thousands of birds including flamingos and pelicans - lies on the approach to Elands Bay.

Verlorenvlei is the site of no fewer than 232 types of birds. Elands Bay really is a wonderful spot for dolphin and whale watching, and freshwater and salt fishing is touted as one of the best pastimes, although townsfolk will not stop short of telling you about how the fish have left this part of the coast - putting paid to the locals' livelihood. But it is close to heaven to stroll on the Elands Bay beach where there is little commercialisation and where the term 'relaxation' isn't a euphemism for flashy entertainment.

It's also a surfer's paradise - known as e-bay to the surf fraternity, the sought after left-breaking waves mean it's much like Jeffrey's Bay only without the crowds - and in season one can dive for crayfish, provided you have a license. The Baboon Point cliffs are a firm attraction, including the Bobbejaanberg Cave decorated with rock art and a shell midden (a deposit of shell). There is much debate about whether or not Baboon Point will be named a heritage site.



Environment: The coastline of Elands Bay Cave has changed dramatically since the end of the Ice Age. A coastal plain once extended some 20 km west of Elands Bay Cave into the sea. Heavier rainfall and different ocean levels allowed Elands Bay Cave to be a lush environment in the past. Testing of fauna remains, bones, and wood charcoals provided

evidence of wetter conditions in the terminal Pleistocene. During that time, the environment consisted of colder weather with heavier rain fall which created vegetation that was different than it is today. Now it has become a drier environment with different species residing there. Rainfall from 9,600 to 13,600 years ago, produced 400 mm comparable to today's 300 mm.

More recent environmental conditions near Elands Bay Cave are characteristic of mild weather with an approximated 200–250 mm per year of rainfall occurring every winter. Elands Bay Cave is in close proximity (approximately 3 kilometers) to a rich environment supporting numerous shellfish species, sea birds and marine mammals.



Melkbos

30 min out of town (up north on the R27) you'll find a long beach called "Van Riebeeckstrand". However, most of the windsurfers call this spot "Melkbos", which is the name of the small village close by. This is probably the most popular spot in Table Bay. The wind blows exactly side shore and the spot offers really good and consistent wave riding and jumping conditions. In the majority of cases the wind starts in the late afternoon and gets really strong. The waves are at least 1 meter higher than at Sunset Beach and work the best at low tide.

Yzerfontein

At this long beach the waves tend to be higher than in Table Bay. It's a long, slow and harmless wave - perfect for wave riding. On a big day the point break awakes and produces an epic lefthander. You can get very lucky and the waves peel down the whole bay!

Langebaan

Langebaan - located 120 km north of Cape Town - is a beautiful huge lagoon. The warm water invites you for wind- and kitesurfing in board shorts. Beginners and freestylers love the glassy surface.

Wind Surfing

West Coast

Elands Bay

This surf spot 3 hours north of Cape Town can provide epic big-wave-sailing-conditions. Elands Bay is best known as the little left-hand brother of Jeffery's Bay by the surfers. Windsurfing doesn't work too often up in E-Bay, but if it's on, it's the place to be. Elands needs very strong winds and a big swell (min 15ft.). The wave is powerful, hollow and fast. It's quite a mission to cross the shore break at gusty winds.

The good thing about Cape Town is not just the perfect waves and the consistent Wind, it's also this laid-back atmosphere, great parties and a fairly low cost of living.

The windsurfing is best from November to February, which is basically summertime in the southern hemisphere.



SUMMER



Planet Xancara



Planet Xancara... the most exclusive venue at the most exclusive location...

Xancara (which means 'the bushman who takes care') is situated at the South African West Coast, next to the nature reserve Verlorenvlei. It is surrounded by natural scenery of tremendous beauty and is world famous for this unique habitat of many bird species. Planet Xancara also has unique bushman paintings on it's property.

Looking for very exclusive lodging in South Africa? In the middle of a nature reserve? Looking for a VIP venue for a VIP function? Looking for a special, ultimate-relaxing location for your yoga classes or ceremony?

Planet Xancara is for hire for private functions and offers the essential facilities (tents, sleeping bags, pillows) to give your customers breath-taking experience. We also provide delicious food during your stay.

For info & reservations call Joachim Pollet @ +27 79 556 04 27 (South Africa) or Isaac Maine @ +32 495 16 65 56 (Belgium)

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SURF'S UP!

In the right conditions, the waves get classic in Elands Bay especially in winter time. A rocky, kelp covered shelf, or small point, which turns a corner and becomes sand at a small river mouth. The swell refracts around the outer area of Elands Bay and peaks at the point, producing a hollow take-off and cylindrical wall that runs for about 150 meters. Needs a solid SW swell of 8' before it wraps around the point. In Cape Town is a solid 6 – 8', and the northern suburbs are 3 – 4', chances are Elands will be 3 -5', Handles any S wind. Dominated wind is SE.



Farmer Burgers A rocky shelf south of Lambert's Bay produces a fun, sometimes classic, two- to five-foot wave in glassy or light northeast mountain winds. There are lots more quality reef breaks in the area, with varying swell and wind.

Garbage dumps There are two waves: garbage dump right and garbage dump left. The right is a fun point break in a west swell. The left is a point break, best at low tide. The ride ends in front of a rocky shelf. East winds are offshore. Needs a six-foot-plus swell to work. Lots of kelp.

Yo-yos In front of the river mouth at Lambert's Bay, near the caravan park, are fun sandbank peaks at low tide. At its best in calm conditions or light northeast winds and medium-sized swell.



Elands Bay was a small fishing harbour at the foot of the Bobbejaansberg. Now, it is the West Coast's prime surfing spot and draws large crowds on weekends and during holidays. The town maintains a relaxed lifestyle for which the West Coast is so well-known. It's the perfect place to relax and unwind on a West Coast journey. **Surfing Elands Bay** is one of the very few places where waves break to the left "the left break". Elands has been for years, the place for surfers to come together. **Windsurfing and Kite surfing:** The Southwest wind reasonable to gale forces in the afternoons during the summer months, November and December, if you are a kite surfer then Elands Bay is the right place for you, on the North side close to the Hotel.





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