

V&A WATERFRONT FAST FACTS

The V&A Waterfront is a mixed-use destination which offers 12 hotels, over 500 retail options and five museums. The property hosts live entertainment throughout the year along with a variety of leisure options (ranging from yachts, helicopter flights to penguin encounters at the Two Oceans Aquarium) and prime residential and commercial property. Together with 22 heritage sites and tourism landmarks, the V&A Waterfront also includes the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA) – hosting the world’s largest collection of contemporary art from Africa and its diaspora. The V&A Waterfront is also operator of the newly upgraded Cape Town Cruise Terminal.

1. The V&A Waterfront established in 1988, is the most visited tourism destination in Africa with 24 million visitors per year. The average number of visitors to the V&A Waterfront is 1.7 million per month, which increases to over 2.5 million during the popular summer months as domestic and international tourists descend on Cape Town. It boasts with panoramic views of the ocean, city bowl and Table Mountain,

2. The V&A Waterfront is situated in South Africa’s oldest working harbour with the local fishing industry occupying 31% of the site. It provides visitors with a vibrant and ever-changing backdrop of ferries, fishing vessels, charter boats and marine life. The harbour, originating in 1860, today caters for a wide range of vessels

3. With 22 official landmarks on-site, the V&A Waterfront forms an integral part of South Africa’s historical legacy. Some of these include:

- Chavonne’s Battery – established in 1725
- Dock House – 1870, previously the Harbour Master’s residence
- Houses at Portsworld Ridge – from 1870
- Clock Tower – 1882, original Port Captain’s Office
- Ulundi Parking Garage – 1889, previously the home of Chief Resident Engineer
- Time Ball Tower – 1894, previously repeater station for harbour signals
- NSRI boathouse where the first port lifeboat was housed in 1898
- Life Grand Café, originally a harbour tea-room from 1902
- Breakwater Prison – 1902, which now houses UCT’s Graduate School of Business
- Old Port Captain’s Building – 1904
- Victoria Basin – 1905
- Union Castle Building – built in 1919 for Union Castle Mail Steamship Company
- The Grain Silo – 1924
- V&A Hotel which was formerly a warehouse from the 1930’s

4. The V&A Waterfront has over 500 retailers. Retail shopping hours are open 364 days of the year with Christmas Day trading being optional for tenants.

5. The various businesses at the V&A Waterfront employ over 23,000 people and indirectly 66,000.

6. The open spaces and public walkways cover 37% of the V&A’s total land use.

7. In 2018 the V&A’s contribution to direct GDP was R9.3bn and R31.5bn to total GDP. The cumulative contribution, since 2003, was R76bn to direct GDP and R255bn to total GDP.

8. The V&A Waterfront made up 1.6% of the Western Cape economy. The V&A grew by 13.5% real, compared to (calendar year 2017) the Western Cape of 0.5% and the country at 1.5%.

9. Enterprise development and start-ups:

There were 396 businesses operating in this sphere.

Total turnover, excluding Workshop 17, was R329m

Average firm turnover, excluding Workshop 17, was R1.5m.

Over 2 800 people owed their livelihoods to enterprise development and start-ups. (Excluding Workshop 17).

10. It is a destination that creates and supports local culture through initiatives like the Busker Development Programme, impacting the lives of 170 buskers.

11. The V&A Waterfront has cemented its commitment to sustainability with its 12 Green Star ratings awarded to various buildings at the V&A Waterfront from the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA), elevating the precinct still further as a benchmark for environmentally responsible development.

13. The V&A Waterfront boasts more than 80 eateries, including restaurants, coffee shops, fast food outlets and food markets.

14. Across the property are 12 hotels with 1,529 number of rooms available in total:

- Table Bay – 329 rooms
 - Portswood – 103 rooms
 - City Lodge – 207 rooms
 - Cape Grace – 121 rooms
 - Breakwater Lodge – 233 rooms
 - Commodore – 236 rooms
 - V&A Hotel – 94 rooms
 - One & Only – 131 rooms
 - Queen Victoria – 35 rooms
 - Dock House Hotel – 6 rooms
 - Cape Grace Hotel – 120 rooms
 - The Silo Hotel – 28 rooms
 - Radisson RED – 252
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