

LANGEBAAN

Just over one hundred kilometers from Cape Town, next to the scenic Langebaan Lagoon, nestles the picture perfect little village of Langebaan, one of the oldest and least discovered tourist destinations on the West Coast of South Africa.



The name is said (Amongst other theories) to originate from a Dutch Phrase meaning “Long Fjord”. It is the ideal place to stay when visiting the 30,000 hectare West Coast National Park and to experience the flowers in August and September, en route to Namaqualand, The Cedarberg or Namibia. Nature lovers revel in the pure air, miles of safe beaches, the Sun and watersports like sailing, windsurfing, surfing, fishing, diving or just paddling when they are not bird- watching, hiking or playing the 18 Greens. It is a birdwatchers paradise, with as many as 75 species observed in one morning, and 250 in a year. Meet the migrators from the steppes here in Summer!

The village also boasts several very good restaurants, ranging from Haute cuisine to Boma. An off-sales, supermarket, medical doctor, dentist. Garage, video shops, boat yard, yacht club and as well as seafood distributors ensure that you won’t need to leave the village for anything but to go home.

HISTORY

After the Khoi people had lived here for thousands of years, Langebaan area was “Discovered” in about 1601, and saw the Portugese, Dutch, French and English, all take their turns “Owning” it.

In 1662 Jan Van Riebeeck sent scouts to Langebaan and lucky for us they could find no fresh water, otherwise Cape Town might have been right here! There have been pirates, soldiers in forts, whale hunters, guano collectors, sheep farming on islands, meteorological stations, flying boats, a navy base, air force rescue boats, oyster shell collectors and fishermen. This of course was after all the Lions, Elephants, Rhino’s, Hippo’s and other game had already left or had been hunted to extinction.

The area has been dated to 10 million years old, and a visit to the FOSSIL PARK in an old Phosphate Mine nearby is well worth the effort. The village has it’s own unique character, and it’s inhabitants, traditionally farmers, fisher- men, sailors, pilots, pirates and soldiers, have had their ranks swelled by pensioners and tourists.

Accommodation Ranges from backpackers, bed and breakfast \ self catering establishments, to chalets, furnished flats and houses, caravan parks and municipal Bungalows.