



# THE DONGOLA

GUESTHOUSE

## History of Cape Town

Cape Town is considered the mother of the cities of Africa and is located directly next to the Atlantic Ocean. Cape Town was founded in 1652 by the Dutchman Jan van Riebeeck. The city served as a base for the supply of merchant ships on their way to India. In time, other Dutch, German and French immigrants settled here. Cape Town got its name from the 'Cape of Good Hope' about 50 kilometers away and stretches around Table Mountain. The indigenous people around Cape Town were nomadic bushmen and pastoralists. Due to their 'choppy' sound they were named 'Hottentots' by the Dutch.

Because of the bankruptcy of the Dutch East India Company, the Cape Peninsula including Cape Town became a British Crown Colony in 1814. Wealth and prosperity came to Cape Town quite quickly due to its favorable location to the sea and the discovery of gold and diamonds in the years 1870 to 1890. In 1910 the former British Crown Colony and three other colonies became the Union of South Africa.

After the Second World War, the 'National Party' gained the majority in the parliament of South Africa. At the beginning of the 20th century, strict racial segregation was introduced in Cape Town. As a result, the black population was pushed into the vicinity of the harbour and the east side of Table Mountain. This led to the formation of the so-called townships. The squalid settlements of the black population became the starting point of the resistance against this racial segregation. The developments of the residential areas took place according to these different conditions. Countless different ethnic and religious groups lived in the 'black neighborhoods', creating a colorful, lively picture. A distinct musical style developed in the many jazz bars. The neighborhoods reserved for the white population were characterized by museums, universities, the parliament building and other historic buildings.

After his release from prison on February 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela made his momentous speech here in Cape Town, ushering in a new era for development throughout South Africa. Despite increasing corruption in South African government circles, a variety of rehabilitation programs have led to fundamental improvements.