



CONTACT DETAILS

Tel: +27 (0)21 409 5100
+27 (0)21 413 4220/1

Ticket prices:
Adults (18 and older): R200
Children under 18; R100

Ferry Departure Times:
Daily tours : 09h00, 11h00,
13h00 and 15h00
(subject to seasonal changes
and weather conditions)

Ticket Sales Office:
Nelson Mandela
Gateway Building,
Clock Tower Precinct,
V&A Waterfront
Cape Town

www.robben-island.org.za

Western Cape



Robben Island

Robben Island

Robben Island is known the world over as a place of banishment, exile, isolation and imprisonment. For nearly 400 years colonial and apartheid rulers banished those they regarded as political troublemakers, social outcasts and the unwanted of society to this rocky, 575-hectare outcrop in Table Bay.

The Island's unwilling inhabitants included slaves, political and religious leaders who opposed Dutch colonialism in East Asia, Khoikhoi and other African leaders who resisted British expansion in South Africa, leprosy sufferers, the sick, the mentally disturbed, French Vichy prisoners of war and most recently, political opponents of the apartheid regime in South Africa and Namibia.

During the apartheid years Robben Island became internationally known for its institutional brutality. Some freedom fighters spent more than a quarter of a century in prison for their beliefs. Yet people such as Nelson Mandela emerged from here to lead South Africa to democracy with a message of tolerance, reconciliation and hope that moved the world.

Those imprisoned on the Island succeeded on a psychological and political level in turning a prison "hell-hole" into a symbol of freedom and personal liberation. Robben Island came to symbolise, not only for South Africa and the African continent, but also for the entire world, the triumph of the human spirit over enormous hardship and adversity. In doing so it has offered a world still troubled by division, social injustice and intolerance, hope for the future.

After the defeat of apartheid, the last political prisoners were released from Robben Island in 1991. In 1996 Robben Island was declared a National Monument and a National Museum.

On January 1, 1997, Robben Island Museum opened to the public and on December 1, 1999, Robben Island was declared a World Heritage Site.

