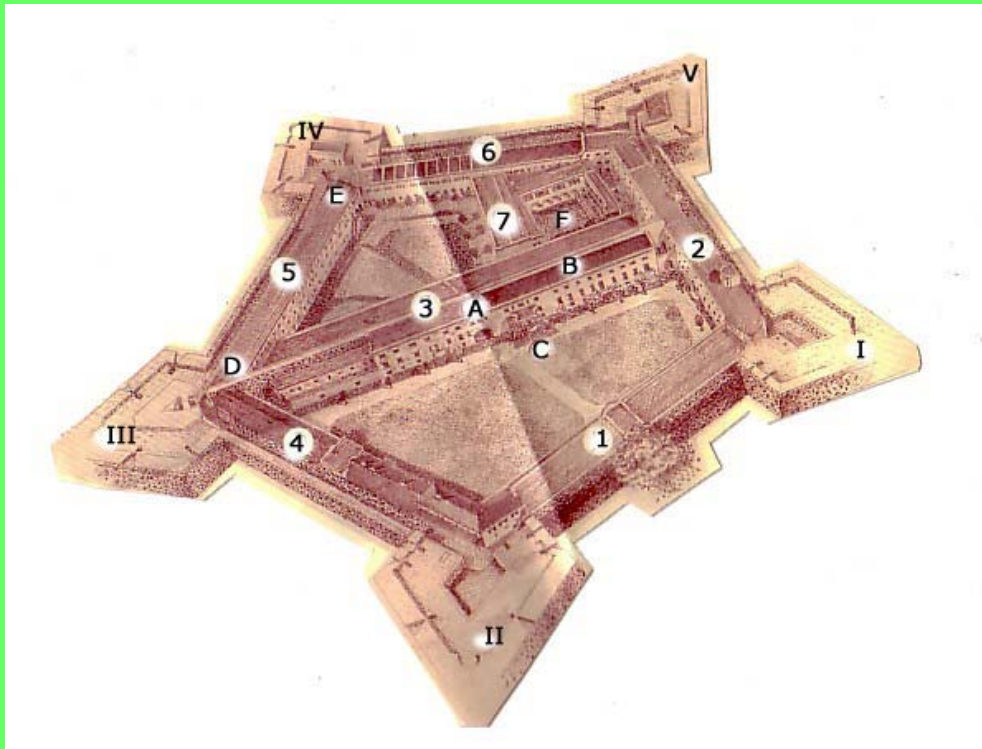


# Kasteel De Goede Hoop, Castle of Good Hope

## A fine example of a Dutch V.O.C.-fortification in South-Africa

Photographs and text: Dirk Teeuwen MSc, Holland

Pictures are available on request.



1. Capetown Castle in 2007, building period 1666-1679 (detail from a tourist handout)

A first four-pointed earthen-walled fort was built by the Dutch governor and founder of Cape Town Jan van Riebeeck in 1652.

### Bastions

- I Leerdam
- II Buuren
- III Katzenellenbogen
- IV Nassau
- V Oranje

### A random selection

- A. Well gate
- B. Governor's residence
- C. Kat Balcony from 1780
- D. Ships' equipments
- E. Cells, torture room, gunpowder storage

### Details

- 1. Entrance, main gate, guardhouse, salt warehouse (to the city centre)
- 2. Old Kat, Wine and food warehouses, captain's residence
- 3. Oil warehouse, corn cellars, goods warehouses
- 4. Smith, Cartwright, ships equipment, warehouse master's residence (seaside)
- 5. Gunpowder magazine, warehouses with oil, iron, salt, goods
- 6. Medicine shop, laboratory, offices, artillerists, grenadiers, assistance (smith and Cartwright)
- 7. Bakery, coal store, shops, well, pond, gallery-walkabout

V.O.C.: Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie, Dutch East-India Company 1602 – 1796/1800

Capetown Castle was built at first as a earthen-walled fort by Jan van Riebeeck, commissioned by the V.O.C. in 1652. The Cape Colony served as a staging post meant for Dutch sea-going vessels on their way to The Dutch East-Indies (Indonesia), Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Madagaskar, India, etc.

The castle, as it shows itself now, is from 1666-1679 and bears a resemblance to Dutch castles on Sri Lanka, the eastern coast of India, Surinam and Batavia-Jakarta. The castles in India and Batavia have been demolished, but there are many of old pictures, drawings, maps remaining in museums, archives and literature. The construction started in January 1666 and was rounded off in April 1679 under governor Simon van der Stel. The five bastions were named after titles and possessions of the viceregal family Oranje-Nassau in The Netherlands. In Dutch: "de stadhouderlijke familie" or "family of the stadtholder" Oranje-Nassau.

The walls are from brick and stone and are three meters broad. The fortification measures 800 meters around, while the enclosing moat is 30 meters wide, formerly filled by mountain streams. In 1691 the inner area was subdivided into two areas: a forecourt and a weapons court by a transverse wall, in Dutch a so-called kat. The aim was to protect the new court in front of the governor's residence from cannon fire from Devil's Peak, formerly Leeuwenkop (Lion's Head). My intention is to show an impression of this fortress as it shows itself in 2007. Therefore I made a selection from my pictures taken during my visit to Cape Town Castle in November 2007.



**2. Main gate, Capetown Castle 2007**

The bell dates from 1697. The gate has been decorated with Dutch emblems.

Dirk Teeuwen MSc Holland



**3. The wing at the city centre side Capetown Castle 2007**  
 One can see from the forecourt the inner side of the main gate, the gallery and a Dutch emblem.



**4. Bastion Leerdam, Capetown Castle 2007**

Dirk Teeuwen MSc Holland





5. Part of Governor's residence, Capetown Castle 2007  
Part of the "kat". In Dutch a kat is a transverse wall, but means also centre of warfare. Needless to say: "kat" means in Dutch lit. "cat" also.



6. Governor's residence and part of the "kat" (see 5.: another part of the same front), Capetown Castle 2007  
This is the richly decorated entrance to this residence, now the entrance to the museum with the William Fehr collection. The original balcony was built in 1695 and later, between 1786 and 1790, the V.O.C. reconstructed this balcony. Right in top of this photo: a part of Devil's Peak.  
(Also part of the "kat" of course.)

Dirk Teeuwen MSc Holland



**7. Northern and oldest part of the Castle of Good Hope, Capetown Castle 2007**  
Left the "kat" with the governor's residence.



**8. Walkabout behind the governor's residence, Capetown Castle 2007**  
More precisely: the Dolphin Courtyard, also fish pond in the governor's quarter, in the northern corner of the castle.

Dirk Teeuwen MSc Holland





**9. Preparations for a historical ceremony, Capetown Castle 2007**



**10. Bakery and offices in the weapons Court, Capetown Castle 2007**

**11. (below) Corn cellars from 1695, Capetown Castle 2007**

**12. (below) Stairs to bastion Katzenellenbogen**

Dirk Teeuwen MSc Holland



11 and 12



End

Dirk Teeuwen MSc Holland