

# Map Information Sheet

## Nieuwe Kaart van Caap der Goede Hoop



|                             |                                              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Author:</b>              | François Valentijn (1666-1727)               |
| <b>Date of Publication:</b> | 1726                                         |
| <b>Publisher:</b>           | Joannes van Braam and Gerard onder de Linden |
| <b>Original Size:</b>       | 52cm x 62.2cm                                |

### Description

This beautiful engraved map of the Cape of Good Hope was published in 1726 by François Valentijn (1666–1727). Valentijn was a Dutch minister and historian best known for his monumental work *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indiën*. Fully titled *Nieuwe Kaart van Caap der Goede Hoop in hare rechte Juijgencoordige staat vertoond door Francois Valentyn*, it represents one of the earliest comprehensive maps of the Cape of Good Hope and its hinterland, compiled during the period of Dutch East India Company (VOC) control. The map comprises two important maps printed on a single sheet. The primary map details the Cape of Good Hope from the Doornbosch River to the Baay van Algoa (Algoa Bay). The second map, appearing in the upper right quadrant, offers a more detailed depiction of the modern-day Cape Town region from Robben Island to False Bay and east as far as Draakenstein. Both maps offer exceptional inland detail with landholders noted throughout - an exceptionally valuable resource for anyone studying the early development of the Cape.

Valentijn's 1726 *Nieuwe Kaart* drew heavily on Simon van der Stel's 1685 expedition as the principal source for European knowledge of Namaqualand. While Valentijn combined it with other VOC reports, the northward extension, the naming of Namaqua peoples, and the awareness of inland geography all trace directly back to that pivotal expedition. Being one of the earliest sophisticated maps of the region, Valentijn's chart was used as a model by numerous subsequent cartographers.

### Cartographic Content

- The map covers the **Cape Peninsula and adjacent districts**, extending inland to the territories of indigenous peoples.
- **Table Bay (Tafel Baay)**, **False Bay (De Baay Falso)**, and **Saldanha Bay** are prominently shown.
- Mountain ranges are depicted pictorially, creating a dramatic relief of the landscape.
- Numerous indigenous groups are named across the interior, including the **Khoikhoi (Hottentots)**, **San (Sonquas)**, **Namaquas**, **Griquas**, **Attaquas**, and **Caffers (Xhosa peoples)**.
- Early colonial districts such as **District van de Caap de Goede Hoop** are marked, reflecting the VOC's administrative boundaries.
- Dutch farms, outposts, and travel routes are sketched in, showing the gradual penetration of settlers inland.
- A decorative compass rose and neat engraved title cartouche enhance the design.

### Significance

#### Ethnographic Geography:

Valentijn's map marks the lands of Namaquas, Klein Namaquas, Cochoquas, Hottentots, and other groups. Much of this ethnographic geography derives from van der Stel's expedition, which carefully noted the distribution of Namaqua clans and their settlements.

#### Northern Extent of Knowledge:

The map extends well beyond the settled districts around the Cape into Namaqualand and the Gariep region, even though Europeans had little presence there in 1726. That "extended horizon" of Dutch knowledge comes largely from van der Stel's reconnaissance and the records of his surveyors.

### **Copper Prospecting Notes:**

Though not a mining map, Valentijn's depiction of Namaqua territory reflects ongoing interest in copper. Reports from van der Stel's expedition were the first systematic European records of these mineral-rich areas, which later fed into colonial ambitions.

### **Topographical Awareness:**

The mountain chains and river systems north of the Cape, although stylized, echo the descriptions and sketches compiled during van der Stel's trek. While inaccurate in modern terms, they represented the best information the VOC possessed until the later 18th century.

### **Why it matters today.**

- Valentijn's 1726 map is significant as both a colonial artefact and an ethno-historical document: it provides early European perspectives on southern Africa's geography and its peoples.
- It illustrates the VOC worldview, where the Cape is not only a refreshment station but also a space of expanding colonial settlement, mapped against the presence of long-established indigenous communities.
- For historians, it marks an important stage in the cartographic representation of South Africa, bridging early coastal sketches and the more scientific surveys of the late 18th and 19th centuries.

### **Historical Context**

- By the early 18th century, the Cape had been a VOC refreshment station for nearly 75 years (since 1652). The colony was expanding inland, increasingly clashing with Khoikhoi and San groups over land and cattle.
- The naming of indigenous groups on the map reflects both ethnographic interest and the VOC's concern with controlling trade and frontier conflict.
- The Cape was strategically vital for the Dutch as a halfway station to Asia, and maps like this demonstrated the VOC's consolidation of territorial knowledge.
- Valentijn's *Oud en Nieuw Oost-Indiën* (1724–1726), in which this map was published, was one of the first great illustrated histories of Dutch overseas activity, blending geography, ethnography, and natural history.
- Although partly derivative and sometimes inaccurate, this map was among the earliest widely circulated printed maps of the Cape interior available in Europe.

### **Simon van der Stel's Namaqualand Expedition (1685)**

- In 1685 the Cape Governor, Simon van der Stel, led a large expedition northwards into the Namaqualand interior, accompanied by soldiers, free burghers, Khoikhoi guides, and surveyors.
- The official purpose was to investigate reports of copper deposits (especially around present-day Okiep), but it also had the effect of extending Dutch geographic and ethnographic knowledge far beyond the Cape Peninsula.
- The expedition kept journals, maps, and drawings, recording details of landscapes, rivers, flora and fauna, and indigenous Nama and Khoikhoi communities.
- Although systematic triangulation surveys were not yet in use at the Cape, rough maps and descriptions from this expedition were passed into VOC records and circulated among Company officials in Amsterdam.

This is a reproduction of a historical map.

Digitally enhanced and printed by **Africa Map Art**.



[www.africamapart.co.za](http://www.africamapart.co.za)