

PORT ELIZABETH

People walked down Africa and came to the bay on the east coast of South Africa, which acquired the Portuguese name of Algoa Bay. Bartholomew Diaz and his men were the first Portuguese to arrive in 1486. They saw the possibilities of harborage and called it the lagoon - alagoa. The English called it Fort Frederick in 1799. The 1820 Settlers arrived there and eventually a harbour was built and called Port Elizabeth. The Lieutenant-General of the Cape, Sir Rufane Donkin, gave it his wife's name - Elizabeth. Nowadays people call Port Elizabeth "the friendly city" or "the Windy City". Situated at the end of the Garden Route, PE now forms part of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropole. PE's rugby stadium is Boet Erasmus, perhaps most notorious for "The Battle of Boet Erasmus" - the fight that broke out during the game between South Africa and Canada during the 1995 Rugby World Cup and which led to James Dalton and Pieter Hendricks' suspension from the tournament. The stadium has also played host to countless rugby development clinics over the years, with many top international rugby stars and coaches having shared their knowledge and love for the game of rugby with PE's disadvantaged local communities. The Eastern Province is regarded as the stronghold of black rugby in South Africa, and the Springbok manager of the 2007 World Cup winning Springboks, Zola Yeje, was the captain of the local black PE rugby club, Spring Rose, in the 1970s. There he played with memorable players such as Cheeky Watson, Gerald and Thoz Majola, Thembu Ludwaba, Peter Mtata, and Mpumelelo Tshune.



DIE BOET ERASMUS-STADION, PORT ELIZABETH

