



SOUTH AFRICA

INTELLIGENCE DRIVEN



Port of Saldanha, South Africa

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Port Information: Saldanha Bay



Situated on the west coast of Africa, 60 nautical miles north-west of Cape Town, the Port of Saldanha is the deepest and largest natural port in Southern Africa and is partly protected by an artificial breakwater.

The land and sea area covered by Portnet jurisdiction totals 18 300 hectares with a circumference of 91km.

The Port of Saldanha is the only iron ore handling port in South Africa. Proper synergy between the Transnet National Port Authority management and Spoornet (Orex) management has ensured reliable connection between the port and the iron ore mines at Sishen (some 860km north-east of Saldanha).

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The port also serves base metal mines, an adjacent heavy minerals smelter, and the crude storage facility near the port.

Originally constructed during the early 1970s to facilitate the export of iron ore, bulk crude oil and break-bulk terminals were subsequently added to the facilities in the port.

In the years subsequent to the 1970s, additional infrastructure was provided for imports of bulk crude oil and for imports and exports of break-bulk cargo.

Saldanha's liquid bulk terminal can accommodate very large crude carriers (VLCCs) and its break-bulk operation handles a variety of general cargoes.

Its strategic position on the west coast, along with the ongoing development of its infrastructure, has given the port a strongly competitive edge. Its assets include ship and oil rig repair facilities and an offshore fabrication yard. Saldanha has ambitions to be a key player in this field.



Port:

Saldanha Bay, South Africa

Location:

Latitude: 33.0155° S

Longitude: 17.9903° E

Advising ETA:

To VTS / Port Control on Channel 16 at 148, 24, 12 and 4 hours prior to arrival.

Airport:

The nearest major airport is Cape Town Airport, 140km from Saldanha. There are local airports in Saldanha and Langebaan, both approximately 15km from the port.

Anchorage:

Saldanha and Langebaan anchorages

Approaches:

Main navigation channel depth: 23m and 23.7m at its start
Minimum width: 400m

Ballast:

Vessels should be sufficiently ballasted to navigate safely within the harbour.

Banking:

Leading South African banks represented in towns of Saldanha and Vredenburg.





Berths:

Four MPT berths, two iron ore berths and 1 crude oil berth ranging up to 318.5m in length.

Bunkers:

No pipeline-delivered bunkers are available. Gas, oil and diesel is supplied from Cape Town and is available at the ore berths, but must be ordered in advance through the ship’s agent. The Government and Sea Harvest quays have private bunker lines.

Cargo Handling:

The oil terminal is equipped with three 16-inch connection Chiksan hydraulic arms. The Iron Ore jetty has a semi-automated bulk handling facility fed by conveyor. There are four multipurpose berths.

Depth:

Ore Terminal

The maximum permissible age of vessels scheduled for loading at BTS is twenty (20) years from ex dock-yard.

All vessels between the ages of fifteen (15) and twenty (20) years will be inspected at least once a year.

Max air draft – 22m

Min beam – 32m

Vessels less than 80000 DWT and/or vessels with mast poles will be permitted at the discretion of the Terminal Operator, whose written authorisation for such berthing is required.

Min hatch size – 20m length and 14m width

Oil Jetty

Direction	021° / 201°t
Main channel width	400m
Main channel depth	23.7m
Turning circle depth	23.2m
Turning circle width	580m
Depth alongside	23m
Dredged dist. off berth	220m
Max air draft	20m
Height of jetty	5.45m
Length of ore jetty	630m
Largest vessel handled	322 197 DWT
Tidal range at spring tides	2m

Tanker Jetty

Depth alongside	23.2m
Dredged dist. off berth	220m
Max LOA of tanker	333m
Max air draft	23m
No. of loading arms	3
Tidal range at spring tides	2m

A slipway is situated to the north-west of the Government Jetty.

Dimensions	1200t
Max length	70m
Max beam	11m
Max draft	5m

Multi-purpose Terminal

Direction of approach channel	020° / 200°t.	
Channel depth	14m	
Depth alongside		
Quay 201	11.5m	
(permissible draft – 11.5m)		
Quay 202 to 203	14m	
(permissible draft – 13.5m)		
Length of quay 201	250m	
Length of quay 202 to 203	620m	
Tidal range at spring tides	2m	
Coping height	5.1m at chart datum	
Bollard spacing		
Quay 201	20m	(201)
Bollards 1 - 12		
Quay 202 to 204	25m	(202)
Bollards 12 - 21		
Width of fenders		
Quay 201	1m	(203)
Bollards 21 - 30		
Quay 202 to 204	1m	(204)
Bollards 30 - 39		

Fishing Harbour





Emergencies:

Contact Port Control on Channel 12 or 16
or call +27 22 703 5310.

Fresh Water:

Available at all berths on request. In light of recent drought situations, a restriction of 50 tons is in place. Only under special circumstances will the Harbour Master approve requests that exceed the 50-ton restriction.

Hazardous Cargo:

A certified chemist boards all tankers on arrival to check its insert gas system and to confirm that arriving cargo is fully inserted. Lead concentrates must be covered at all times.

Hours:

Open 24/7, 365 days per year for handling ore vessels and tankers. Tankers and vessels of more than 14m draught are only berthed during daylight. Ore vessels are worked 24-hours. Tankers discharge and backload during daylight until finished. Vessels over 300m in length are handled during daylight hours only.



Pilotage:

Pilotage is compulsory. Boarding via pilot launch or, in certain adverse weather conditions, by helicopter.



Radio:

Channels 12 and 16; also on 29 Mhz and r/t Channel A at Saldanha.

Sophisticated VTS system perfected by Marine Data Systems and AIS System.

Ship Repair:

Local facilities, including a slipway, are geared to the requirements of fishing vessels. The closest facilities for large vessels are in the Port of Cape Town.

Storage:

Dry bulk and general cargo storage facilities are available at the port.

Tide:

Ranges are as per tide tables, averaging 1.8m at 6-hourly intervals.

Water Density:

1.025g/m³

Weather:

The port operates under open sea conditions with winds and swells as factors that should always be considered.



Image sourced by Transnet

Terminal Information:

Ore Terminal

This includes 2 ore berths. The jetty consists of 25 caissons joined by a platform some 991.65m long, and is joined to the north shore of the harbour by a 3100m causeway. The semi-automatic bulk handling facility is equipped with a state of the art tippler of the Tandem rotary type, capable of handling 170t per tip at a rate of 8000t/h. Bulk ore loading is affected by means of two luffing, slewing and travelling ship loaders, fed by two separate conveyor belts and intended to operate on a continuous basis at a loading rate of 8000t/h for one loader and 15000t/h for two loaders simultaneously.

Oil Jetty

This includes 1 oil berth. Bulk crude oil is loaded / discharged by means of 3 hydraulic arms, placed 11m apart on the jetty. The port amidships derrick / crane is required on berthing. Special spooling pieces are bolted onto the ship's manifold to enable the arm to be attached. The maximum freeboard is 23m. The arms have a limited ranging capacity and are fitted with audible alarms to warn of their limits. The storage tanks are about 8km away. A discharge / loading rate of up to 10 000t/h can be obtained. The Surveyor, Discharge Advisor and Agent stay on board throughout discharge / loading.

Multi-purpose Terminal

This consists of 3 berths. Concentrate cargo for loading is trucked in by road in 12t skips towed by tractors. All cargo is loaded by ships gear – no fixed shore cranes are available.

Fishing Harbour

This is administered by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and consists of:

- The Government Jetty, located on the south-western side of the Harbour (the northern end is derelict and not used)
- Slipway Jetty
- A slipway is situated to the north-west of the Government Jetty. The maximum dimensions of a vessel using this facility is 1200t, maximum length 70m, maximum beam 11m and maximum draft 5m.
- The Sea Harvest Jetty (private, on lease from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism)

Sourced Information:

www.transnet.net