



THE NOORDHOEK FIELD GUIDE / CAPE TOWN

Wind first, then light, then salt: how a Noordhoek window really behaves.

Noordhoek is a wide, open valley pinned under Chapman's Peak with a six-kilometre beach down one side. That openness is the whole point of living here — and it's exactly what makes shading a window a local problem, not a generic one. This is our working playbook for the valley: the wind, the low afternoon sun, the Atlantic salt, the wet winter, and what we'd actually specify, room by room.

[Book your free measure](#)

[Read the guide](#)

- ✓ Free in-home measure & written quote
- ✓ Sourced local facts, not a brochure
- ✓ Child-safe fittings as standard

WHY NOORDHOEK IS ITS OWN CASE

An open valley shades nothing like a walled suburb

Noordhoek sits at about 34° south on the Atlantic side of the peninsula, below the 592-metre face of Chapman's Peak, with a six-kilometre beach along its western edge. Homes here were built to look *out* — at the mountain, the paddocks and the sea — which usually means big glazing on the western and

south-western walls and generous outdoor rooms. That's a lovely way to live, and it puts your glass square in the path of the two things this valley has plenty of: wind and low afternoon sun. Add the salt off Long Beach and the cold, wet north-wester winters, and you have a shading brief a walled suburb simply doesn't.

So a blind that's perfect on a sheltered town bedroom can be exactly wrong on an exposed west-facing lounge here. This guide takes the problems in order — wind, low south-west glare, salt, winter damp — then gets specific about products and rooms. Every climate and geography claim is sourced at the foot of the page.

The wind & the light

Room by room

What we'd specify & why

Estate & heritage notes

What we check on site

The two ways forward

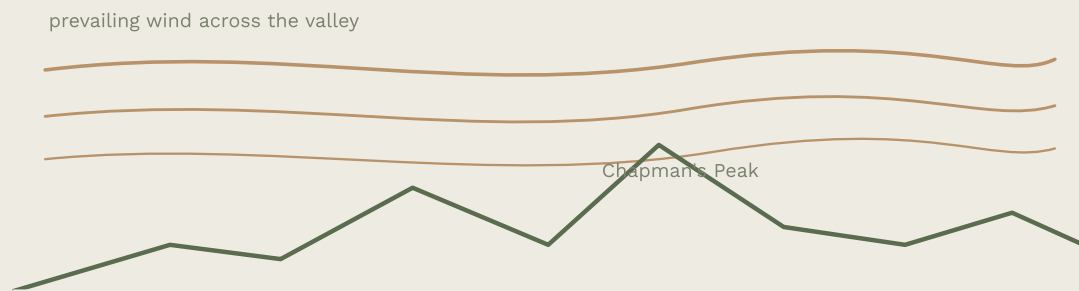
THE WIND & THE LIGHT HERE

Two winds a year, and a sun that comes in low from the south-west

Start with the wind, because in Noordhoek it decides more than the fabric ever will. Cape Town runs on two seasonal winds and this valley catches both. In summer — roughly October to March — the dry, hard **south-easter**, the "Cape Doctor", pours down off the mountains for days at a stretch. In winter it flips: **north-westerly** cold fronts roll in off the Atlantic with rain, big swells and a rough, cold sea, gusting to severe gale strength. The steep peninsula mountains speed the wind, so an open veranda or big sea-facing pane works far harder here than inland.

Now the light. Because Noordhoek is at about 34° south, the midday sun sits in the **north** all year — so the north side of the house takes the steady, manageable sun, not the south. Worked from that latitude, the summer noon sun climbs to roughly **79°**, almost overhead, so a modest eave shades a north window easily in December; in midwinter it only reaches about **33°**, low in the north, reaching deep into north rooms as welcome warmth. The trouble is

direction, not height: in a Cape summer the sun **rises in the south-east and sets in the south-west**, so the west and south-west glass — the aspect of most view homes here — takes the brutal, low, late-afternoon sun no roof overhang can catch. Add the light bouncing off the beach and wetland, plus Cape Town's summer UV (which runs "extreme" from about October to March, peaking between ten and two), and those late-day walls face glare, heat and fabric-fade at once.



The wind streams down the valley over the ridge — the reason an open-sided blind rarely survives here, and a captive-edge screen does.

ROOM BY ROOM, ELEVATION BY ELEVATION

Which windows actually suffer — and what fixes each

Before you choose a fabric, work out which way the window faces — in Noordhoek the view usually tells you. Looking at the mountain or the sea over the western half of the valley means facing roughly west or south-west, the hardest aspect to shade well. Here's how the four aspects behave here.

NORTH

The easy one

Steady high summer sun an eave shades cleanly; low, welcome winter sun. A sunscreen roller tames UV and keeps the paddock-and-mountain view without darkening the room. Blockout

WEST / SOUTH-WEST

The problem child

Low late-afternoon sun plus glare bouncing off the beach and wetland, on the same walls that cop the wind. This is where stopping the heat *outside* the glass earns its place, and

here is usually overkill outside a bedroom.

where a plain interior blackout roller quietly disappoints (more below).

EAST / SOUTH-EAST

Early risers

Summer sunrise is in the south-east, so these bedrooms get low, direct light from just after five. A blackout roller or blackout honeycomb is the honest fix for anyone who wants to sleep past dawn in December.

SOUTH & OUTDOOR ROOMS

Wind & winter damp

South rooms stay cool and take the wet winter north-wester; verandas take the wind head-on. The brief is moisture-tolerant finishes indoors and captive, wind-rated screens outdoors — not heavy blackout.

WHAT WE'D SPECIFY HERE — AND WHY

The honest product reasoning, with the trade-offs both ways

There's no single "best blind" — only the right one for that window, aspect and budget. Here's how we'd think it through for the situations Noordhoek throws up. Tap *Add to my list* on any you're weighing up; it drops that product into the ballpark tool and ticks it on the free-measure form below, so you don't retype anything.

VERANDAS, STOEPS & OUTDOOR ROOMS

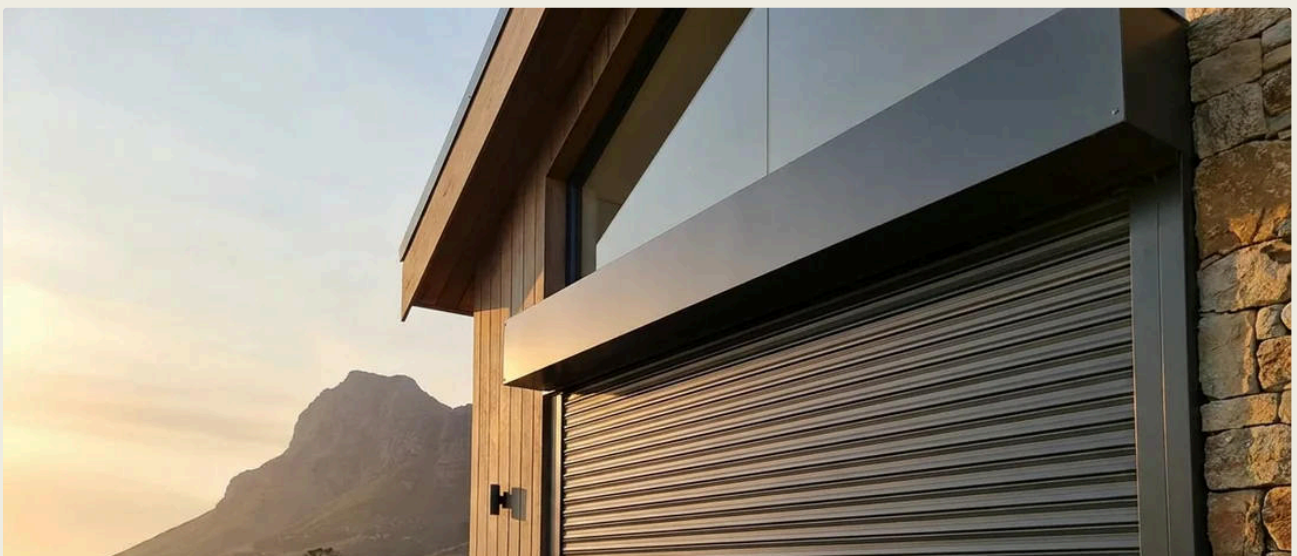
Zip screens vs a free-hanging drop blind

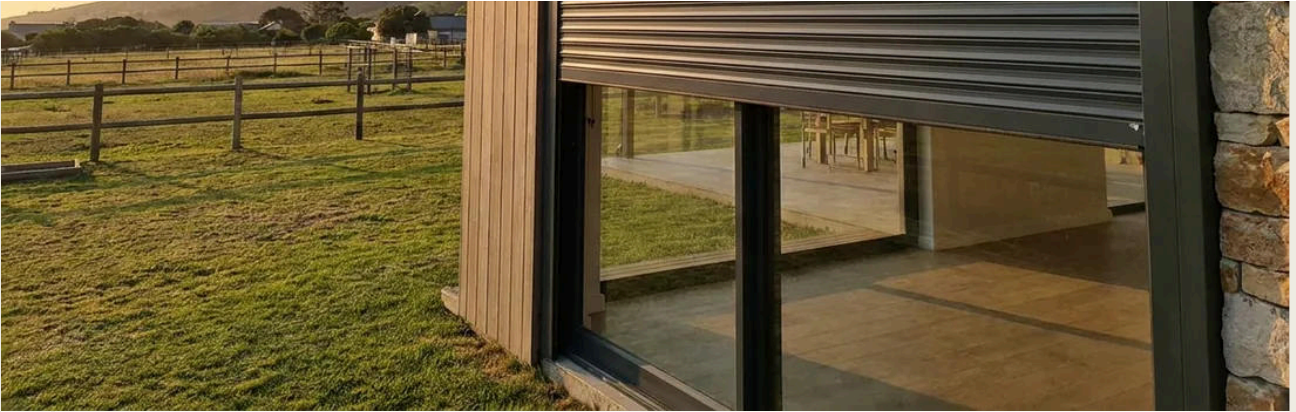
This is the one the valley wind decides for you — and why the home at the top of this page carries a zip screen, not a roll-down blind. Its fabric runs captive in welded aluminium side channels, so it stays flat and tensioned in wind that would flog an open-sided drop blind to pieces in a season. On an exposed stoep, that captive edge is the difference between an outdoor room you use all year and a blind you keep rehanging — sunscreen mesh to keep the view, or clear PVC to make the veranda usable through a wet winter.

The trade-off: a zip screen costs more than a simple roll-down blind, and the channels are fixed to the opening, so it suits a considered veranda rather than a quick fix. Where a spot is genuinely sheltered an open drop blind is fine — but here "genuinely sheltered" is rarer than people think, and we'll say plainly which of your openings actually is.



headrail — view by day, dark by night.





and keeps a slice of daylight. For a west lounge that overheats we lean shutter; for an occasional guest room, the interior blackout is the sensible money.

These are **shading** roller shutters — sun, heat, glare and light control on the outside of the glass. They are not security-rated shutters; that's a different product, available on request.



because salt corrodes lower-grade hardware faster than people expect.



cold and damp do.

And three that round out most Noordhoek homes

Day/night (zebra) rollers alternate sheer and opaque bands on one blind, so you dial from a clear view to filtered privacy without swapping fabrics — handy on a lounge that's a view by day and overlooked at night. **Folding-arm awnings** give a patio retractable shade you pull in when you don't want it — but in this wind, only with a wind sensor that retracts it automatically. **Motorisation** earns its keep on the tall, wide glass and high gables so common here: one remote instead of a stepladder, paired with sun or wind sensors. Add any to your list below.

ESTATE & HERITAGE NOTES

Where the setting, not just the window, sets the brief

Parts of the valley come with rules and character that shape what belongs on a window:

- ✓ **Lake Michelle** is a lakefront estate in the wetlands against the national park, with a strict architectural code and rich natural setting — birdlife, otters, the rare western leopard toad. Here the spec leans to recessed or concealed blind boxes and natural-toned fabrics that sit quietly with any architectural sign-off.
- ✓ **De Goede Hoop** runs up the Silvermine slopes behind the Farm Village on some of the largest erven in the area — big, view-oriented homes with country-scale glass, natural candidates for linked or motorised blinds reached from a remote.
- ✓ **The farm smallholdings and older Cape-vernacular homes** have deep-set casement and steel windows that reward made-to-measure work and timber warmth — and open paddocks rather than walls, so wind exposure is higher than the house alone suggests.
- ✓ **The wetland and beachfront edge** is the saltiest, most exposed air in the valley — here coastal-grade finishes and marine-grade fittings lead the spec rather than looks. The sea decides the hardware.

WHAT WE'D STILL NEED TO CHECK ON SITE

The things a guide honestly can't settle from a distance

Everything above gets you to a confident shortlist. But the details that decide whether a blind fits, lasts and works can only be settled at the window — which is what the free measure is for:

- ✓ **Reveal depth and fixings.** Whether a blind sits inside the reveal or has to face-fix comes down to millimetres — and to what's behind the plaster or steel to fix into, which matters more on older farm-style openings.
- ✓ **Exactly how exposed that opening is.** Wind funnels differently across an open valley, paddock to paddock. We gauge the real exposure on the day to set the right wind rating — and to say honestly where an open blind won't cope.
- ✓ **How much salt the position really gets.** Two windows on one house can need different finishes depending on how directly they face the sea — near the beach

we'd rather see it than guess the grade of hardware.

- ✓ **Power routing for anything motorised.** Where a cable or rechargeable motor can run, and where a sensor should sit, is a look-at-it decision on the tall, wide glass so common here.
- ✓ **The fabric in your light.** Colours and mesh openness read completely differently in Noordhoek's bright, big-sky light — samples held up at the window beat any swatch on a screen.

TWO WAYS FORWARD

Book the free measure — or get a rough ballpark first

Whichever suits you. The free in-home measure is the one we'd recommend — it settles all the on-site questions above and ends with an exact, written, per-window quote. If you'd rather just get a feel for the numbers first, pop rough sizes into the ballpark tool and we'll send a budget range by the next working day. No obligation either way, and if you're not sure how to measure, leave it — that's what the measure is for.

Book your free expert measure

A consultant measures every window, checks the light, the fixings, the wind exposure and the salt, brings fabric samples to hold up in your own valley light, and leaves you with a written, itemised, per-window quote.

We take five or six measure appointments a week across Noordhoek and the deep south, so the diary tends to fill a week or two ahead — booking early just means you get the day that suits you.

Or start with a rough ballpark

Nothing pushy, and nothing binding. Add each window, and we'll send a budget range by the next working day. Not sure of a size? Leave it blank and note the room — or just book the free measure and we'll do the measuring.

ROOM	WIDTH (MM)	DROP (MM)	FIT	PRODUCT
------	------------	-----------	-----	---------

SOURCES

Where the local facts come from

The climate and geography claims above are drawn from the sources below. The summer and winter sun altitudes are *calculated* from Noordhoek's latitude of about 34° south and the standard solar declination, so they're worked out rather than quoted; everything else is cited.

- ✓ Noordhoek location, latitude (~34.10° S), the six-kilometre beach, horse and farm-village character and the wetlands: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noordhoek, latitude.to and sanparks.org
- ✓ Chapman's Peak height (592–593 m) rising over the valley: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapman's_Peak and peakvisor.com
- ✓ Southern-hemisphere sun path (midday sun in the north; west/SW glass takes the low summer afternoon sun): yourhome.gov.au and illustrarch.com
- ✓ The two seasonal winds — summer south-easter ("Cape Doctor"), winter north-wester cold fronts and severe gusts: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Doctor, es-capetown.com and csag.uct.ac.za
- ✓ Cape Town summer UV (index 11–14 "extreme", ~Oct–Mar, peak ~10am–2pm): nomadseason.com and koolasun.co.za
- ✓ Salt-air corrosion and coastal/marine-grade powder-coated aluminium + 316 stainless hardware: titon.com and senmit.com

- ✓ Noordhoek estates — Lake Michelle (wetland lakefront, strict architectural code, leopard toad) and De Goede Hoop (large erven up the Silvermine slopes): estate-living.co.za and degoedehoop.wordpress.com