

Dwarsrivier Valley Tourism
Main Road, Pniel, 7681

Tel: +27 (0) 21 885 2467 • Fax: +27 (0) 21 885 2471
info@dwarsriviertoerism.co.za
www.dwarsriviertoerism.org.za

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About the Valley

Traditionally an agricultural area, the Dwarsrivier has seen a significant increase in the value and importance of tourism, as the valleys' combination of cultural heritage, natural features and scenic beauty offer an unique experience. The valley and towns comprising the area offer a sense of old world rural community. This combined with history and an innovative collection of recreational opportunities. Our valley has been named such because of the Dwarsrivier that runs through the valley from top to bottom. This river, a life source for the valley, has over the centuries served many purposes ranging from a drinking hole for animals, a water source for orchards, as well as a hideaway for young romantics or even philosophers.

Upon entering the Dwarsrivier Valley, one cannot but be in awe of its beauty and a certain mysterious presence that lingers. It is the presence of history and its stories, trials and tribulations. From the blood, sweat and tears of slavery, till today where the merger between the old and the new worlds becomes evident.

The Dwarsrivier Valley serves as a triumphant example of the way forward. Experience a unique balance between historical Cape Cultural and modern lifestyle of wellness, gourmet foods and fine wines. The valley consists of all the necessary elements to satisfy the humanitarian, the nature lover, the historian the adventurous spirit and certainly the connoisseur.

We are proud to say that Dwarsrivier Valley Tourism is committed to responsible and sustainable development practice and strives to serve as a flagship model for social development.



Our History

While there is archaeological evidence of the presence of Early and Middle Stone Age people in the Dwarsrivier and Groot Drakenstein Valleys, it is the Late Stone Age people from thousands of years ago, linked to the Bushmen who lived in the valley during colonial times. The first land was allocated to the Dutch Free Burgher (Vryburger) settlers in 1687. After the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 and the arrival in the Cape of the first French Huguenots, significant change began to occur in the landscape as the Huguenots were granted land interspersed with the Vryburgers. Since they were disallowed from teaching it at school, within forty years few residents in the valley still spoke French.

Slavery in the Cape was introduced shortly after the establishment of the Dutch Settlement at the Cape in 1652. Initially few farmers in the Drakenstein area had slaves, but the demand increased and eventually this region had the greatest portion of slaves in the Cape.

Slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire in 1807, yet slaves were only finally emancipated in the Cape in 1834. They were however required to do a four year 'apprenticeship' with their former masters before being set free. Many ex-slaves moved to the mission stations in the area where they could obtain schooling and learn trades.



Ubuntu Monument

The history of the Dwarsrivier valley is closely associated with Cecil John Rhodes, who after having resigned as Prime Minister of the Cape Colony – in the wake of the failed Jameson Raid – turned to fruit farming at the Cape. In consultation with Harry Pickstone, Rhodes decided to buy old wine farms in the Groot Drakenstein area. From 1897 numerous farms – struggling to cope with the phylloxera virus that attacked the root of the vines – were bought. Rhodes ripped out the vines and started fruit farming in the area – he was apparently the first to send fruit by way of refrigerated 'shipping' to Covent Garden. Recently the valley has come full circle in that many of the farms in the valley are now re-embracing wine-farming as their primary business instead of fruit.

In 1898 Rhodes, aware of the vital need to attract and retain labour in the face of immense labour demand from the gold and diamond mining industries, commissioned the eminent architect Sir Herbert Baker to design an orderly village for the farm workers. In addition to the traditional English style St Guiles Church, over 100 houses, a school and a house for the pastor were built. The result was the village of Lanquedoc, which today still stands under its long avenue of oaks. Each cottage included half a morgen of garden for flowers and vegetables and the keeping of two horses, two cows and pigs. A hundred morgen of commonage was also provided for grazing of the livestock. The houses built were well proportioned yet functional, reflecting Baker's combined interests in Cape Dutch architecture and the Arts and Crafts Movement. Many other buildings in the Dwarsrivier Valley were also designed by Herbert Baker – including additions to the homestead on Lekkerwijn.



During the Anglo-Boer War Rhodes persuaded Alfred Beit and De Beers to become shareholders in his farming venture. As Rhodes' health deteriorated he moved to his cottage in Muizenberg. In February 1902, as Rhodes was dying, a new company – Rhodes Fruit Farms Ltd – was born. Harry Pickstone became Resident Director and Technical Advisor of the company for its first few years of existence. Also in 1902, construction was completed on Rhodes Cottage. The cottage was built (at Rhodes' instruction) exactly one mile from the Boschendal Manor House, at the foot of the Simonsberg Mountain. There is some doubt that Rhodes ever spent time in the Rhodes Cottage but there is a romantic tale that says he spent one night there.

In time a number of other settlements, besides Pniël and Lanquedoc, grew in the valley. Johannesdal and Kylemore were both formed after groups of Pniël inhabitants bought land outside of Pniël. Meerlust village owes its existence to the activities of the former forestry industry in the area. Today these settlements, as well as Franschoek, all form part of Stellenbosch Municipality.

The Dwarsrivier valley is abundantly blessed by nature, rich in culture and heritage just waiting for you to visit.



PNIEL

Its name has its origins in the Holy Bible and means “Seeing God’s Face”. We invite you to come in and experience life in Pniël. Pioneering the way forward for a new South Africa, Pniël takes pride in its deep roots, striking legacies and the ability to move forward. Tightly knit together, this community is carried forward by the hope inspired in the very essence of its name. Our doors are open; for we love people and are warmed and inspired by the thought of sharing what we have with the world.

Pniël traces its history back to 1842 when two local farmers of Huguenot descent, Pieter Isaac de Villiers and Paul Retief, donated land to the recently freed slaves of the Groot Drakenstein area with the intention that they should use it to build a self-supporting mission station. This first piece of land (42ha) was part of the farm De Goede Hoop. Shortly after these 2 farmers also bought the neighbouring farm Papiermolen and incorporated it into the settlement. The land was subdivided into 99 erven on which the former slaves could build houses and start vegetable and fruit gardens. In order to further assist the community the farmers of the area in 1843 created the nondenominational Apostolic Trust to fund the building of a church and school for the community.



KYLEMORE

From the R310 take the Kylemore turn-off and go with the flow as you explore the Dwarsrivier Valley. Lovely people and exquisite scenery, nestled in the heart of towering mountains, Kylemore has its grips on a fair share of history. This town is perfecting the art of perfecting the old, learning from it, and working towards the future. Kylemore is all about people that stand and work together. Thus, on that note, we invite you to stroll down School Street and meet our people and hear their stories. In the Dwarsrivier Valley it is all about sharing what we have and we encourage you to receive a little love and be inspired to give a little back as you let your heart be touched by a true Cape experience.

This beautiful village has its history dating back to the 1600's when it was still privately owned by some of the first colonial settlers during the time of Governor Simon van der Stel. It all started out as a portion of land called “Rust en Vrede” and another portion being part of Zorgfliet in the Banhoek area.

Over time the land has been sold and re-sold, having been the jewel of many but never being settled upon. Almost as if it was never meant to be the prize of one owner.



By 1770 the land was owned by Mr. Jan De Villiers. After Jan de Villiers' death, his wife Anna sold this portion together with another part of Zorgvliet to Mr. Jan Daniel de Villiers. In 1832 François Daniel de Villiers was the new owner of the land.

The town Kylemore was established in 1898, after a fellowship of 49 men, a group who called themselves the "Garden Company" purchased the land from a certain Mr. Arthur Latimer Harrington Kyle, for the sum of 3000 pounds.

These 49 men were emancipated slaves and their children, who resided on the nearby mission station Pniel.

A bond of \$3000 was obtained from Mr. William Frederick Hertzog, and another for the amount of 500 pounds from Mr. Stephen Meintjies Christie, plus a security from a certain Mr. Isaac Sampson and Mr. Christoffel Edward Hendricks.

On 7 July 1898, the title deed to the farm was registered to the names of these 49 coloured men. They found favour with Mr. Arthur Latimer Herrington Kyle and decided to name the farm in his honour "Kylemore"

LANQUEDOC

The Village boast deep roots in agriculture and many good stories are told of it. This village has been identified as an area for social development by many independent organizations, including Dwarsrivier Valley Tourism. Take a drive and enjoy that little trip down the paths of history in our very own and very special agrivillage. We invite you to join forces with us in our mission to facilitate sustainable and responsible development in Lanquedoc and the entire Dwarsrivier Valley by sharing ideas and supporting our local charities and organizations.

The history of housing at Anglo American Farms Limited dates back to 1898 when Sir Cecil John Rhodes, aware of the vital need to attract and keep labour, because of immense pressure from both the gold and diamond mining industries further north for labour, commissioned Sir Herbert Baker to design an orderly village for the farm workers in a simplified Cape Dutch style. Over 100 houses, a church, a

school, and a house for the pastor, were built at a cost of 27 000 pounds which at equivalent value is approximately R37 million (using a 7.5% interest rate over the 100 years) today. The result was the village of Lanquedoc, which today still stands under its long avenue of oaks. Each cottage included half a morgen of garden for flowers and vegetables, and the keeping of two horses, two cows and pigs. A hundred morgen of commonage was provided for grazing of the livestock. The spirit of Lanquedoc was embodied in twenty-six regulations, which Mr. Rhodes said would govern the village – to name a few:

1. A pound would be paid for each child born in the village to the "wives of tenants"
2. Mr. Rhodes paid six annual prizes of £5, £3 & £1.10s for the best kept gardens and houses
3. Drunkenness was not allowed, on pain of one week's notice.

More than 100 years later things have come full circle and Anglo American is now building another 611 homes in Lanquedoc. The project uses the R15 000 grants to employees and additional donations from Anglo American totalling about R35 million. Employees (current and ex) are going to be given full ownership of homes that are worth between R100 000 and R120 000 each. The official handing over of the first homes happened in November 2003, and can be seen from the road driving through Pniel.





Accommodation

Alluvia (B&B, Self-Catering)

Tel: +27 21 885 1661
info@alluvia.co.za
www.alluvia.co.za

Camberley (Guesthouse)

Tel: +27 21 885 1822
sales@camberley.co.za
www.camberley.co.za

De Kraal Country Lodge (Guesthouse, B&B)

Tel: +27 21 885 2634
info@dekraal.co.za
www.dekraal.co.za

Molenvliet Wine Estate & Guest Farm (Guesthouse, B&B)

Tel: +27 21 885 1597
info@molenvliet.co.za
www.molenvliet.co.za

Samburu Cottage (B&B)

Tel: +27 21 885 1625
Bertram@iafrica.com
www.samburu.co.za

Lumley's Place (Guesthouse)

Tel: +27 21 885 2962
info@lumleysplace.co.za
www.lumleysplace.co.za

Lekkerwijn Cape Country Home (Guesthouse, B&B)

Tel: +27 21 874 1122
lekkerwijn@new.co.za
www.lekkerwijn.com

Restaurants

Delaire

Tel: +27 21 885 8160
info@delaire.co.za
www.delaire.co.za

Hillcrest Berry Orchards

Tel: +27 21 885 1629
info@hillcrestberries.co.za
www.hillcrestberries.co.za

Fyndraai Restaurant @ Solms-Delta

Tel: +27 21 874 3937
restaurant@solms-delta.co.za
www.solms-delta.co.za



Wineries

Solms-Delta

Tel: +27 21 874 3937
info@solms-delta.co.za
www.solms-delta.co.za

Alluvia

Tel: +27 21 885 1661
wine@alluvia.co.za
www.alluvia.co.za

Bartinney Wines

Tel: +27 21 885 1013
info@bartinney.co.za
www.bartinney.co.za

Camberley Wines

Tel: +27 21 885 1822
sales@camberley.co.za
www.camberley.co.za

Delaire Graff Estate

Tel: +27 21 885 8160
info@delaire.co.za
www.delaire.co.za

Molenvliet Wine Estate and Guest Farm

Tel: +27 21 885 1597
info@molenvliet.co.za
www.molenvliet.co.za

Clouds Estate

Tel: +27 21 885 1819
info@cloudsestate.co.za
www.cloudsestate.co.za



Activities & Tours

Stubbs Tours & Transfers

Tel: +27 21 885 1621 / +27 82 377 9887 / +27 82 474 4131
stubbstours@mweb.co.za

Florence Coffee Shop and Tours

Tel: +27 21 885 2648 / +27 73 391 2943
florencecoffeeshopandtours@gmail.com

Davoe Tours

Tel: +27 21 885 2861 / +27 78 708 9427
davoetours@yahoo.com

C-South Africa t/a Pniel Travel

Tel: +27 84 613 9091
pnieltravel@csouthafrica.com
www.csouthafrica.com / www.pnieltravel.com

Cape Essence Tours cc

Tel: +27 21 863 2162 / +27 83 682 8307

Freedom Route Tours

Freedom Tour

Be guided through the sights, monuments and stories of our slave freedom.

Heritage Tour

A walking tour through the towns streets highlighting the memorable Sir Herbert Baker buildings.

Silvermine Tour

This tour is ideal for those who wish to experience the scenic beauty of the area combined with the cultural heritage of the valley.

Wine Tour

Book a wine tour or use a local "hop on guide" who will direct you to unique estates.



The Dwaarsriver Valley freedom tours

Tourism has been identified as a major source of economic development for the area in the future. The tours offered in this brochure are all community based and designed to ensure that tourism creates opportunities for all those in the valley. A key feature of this valley is the freedom route, unique in its offering and designed to allow visitors to explore the history and stories of freedom as told and experienced by the local communities. Freedom is now expressed as the local communities prepare to build a future for them using tourism as a major aspect of this.



Arts & Crafts

Imbali Craft Centre

Tel: +27 21 885 1887

Julia Ronel Dreydon

Tel: +27 21 885 1137 / +27 78 572 2805

Ilse Robyn

+27 73 704 0656

Moses Muller

+27 73 948 9631

Deneen Jeffas

+27 21 885 1610

Small Businesses

Anna Foundation

Carolyn Clark
Tel: +27 21 885 1922
info@annafoundation.com
www.annafoundation.com

Doreen's Alterations and Haberdashery

Doreen Williams
Tel: +27 887 5747
info@doreensalterations.co.za
www.doreensalterations.co.za

M2O Security Systems

Anzil Wanza
Tel: +27 21 889 7268
anzilwanza@gmail.com

Clive Cupido Designs

Clive Cupido
Graphic Designer
Tel: +27 73 663 0558
thecupidos@gmail.com

Stone Sculptures

Benita Fisher
Tel: +27 21 885 1507
Benita.d.fisher@gmail.com

Dwarsrivier Upholstery

Yvonne Carolissen
Tel: +27 21 885 2181

Simonsberg H2O

Clyde Williams
Tel: +27 21 869 8103
info@simonsbergh2o.co.za
www.simonsbergh2o.com

Living Stones

Angelo Hendricks
Tel: +27 82 947 0751
angelohendricks@gmail.com

Flowers Direct

Ashley Mentoor (Horticulturist)
Tel: +27 83 703 4205
ashleymentoor@gmail.com

Candles for Africa

Francilla Bekker
Tel: +27 21 8852122 / +27 82 7828403
info@candlesfromafrica.co.za

Stubbs Decor & Hiring

Denise Stubbs
Tel: +27 21 885 7621 / +27 82 411 5907

Kyle's Catering

Elizabeth Brooks
Tel: +27 73 187 3631

Mountain Whisper Herbal Nursery & Teagarden

Bridget Kitley
Tel: +27 79 499 2209
bridgetkitley@gmail.com
www.mountainwhisper.co.za

Wood & Fruit Distribution

Jerome Rose
Tel: +27 81 560 0895
rose.olivia17@gmail.com

Jackie's Jumping Castles and Party Hire

Jackie Goshai
Tel: +27 83 953 7667
Jackie@fun4partyanimals.com

House Shop & Takeaways

Winton Mentoor
Tel: +27 21 885 1507 / +27 82 306 1529

Dwarsrivier Environmental Centre (Pniel Wildlife)

Grechard Pietersen
Tel: +27 78 133 1187
gpetersen@live.co.za



Events

January

Summer concerts at Solms-Delta

February

Freedom Run at Groot Drakenstein Prison
Summer concerts at Solms-Delta
Cricket Tournament at Groot Drakenstein Games Club

March

Summer Concerts at Solms-Delta
Harvest Festival at Werf in Pniel (Pumpkin Festival)
Franschhoek Oesfees at Solms-Delta
Pniel Church Bazaar

April

Delta Draf @ Solms-Delta
Pniel Church Bazaar at Pniel

May

Chrysanthemum Show at Banquet Hall in Pniel
The Valley got Talent at Pniel

September

Dwarsrivier Sports Day

November

Dwarsrivier Run at Pniel Sport grounds
Dwarsrivier Fun Walk at Pniel Sport grounds

December

Flower Festival at Pniel Church
Pniel Church (vrystelling van die slawe) at the Werf



*The Dwaarsrivier valley is abundantly blessed by nature,
rich in culture and heritage and just waiting for your visit.*

