

HISTORY OF FREEDOM

The area now known as the Dwarsrivier was first settled in 1842 when two local farmers concerned with the plight of emancipated slaves and the lack of land and accommodation that they faced donated 19 hectares of land.

Pniel was established as a mission settlement for landless and homeless slaves. In 1843 a trust, a church and a school was established from financial contributions made by the Groot Drakenstein farming community. The name Pniel was taken from the Bible story in Genesis 34:30. It literally means the "face of God"



An idealistic 20 year old pastor, Rev Stegmann was appointed as head of the mission and remained there all of this life until his death in 1910. In 1843 the neighboring farm Papier Moulén, was bought by the trust and a further 43 hectares was added to Pniel. The entire area was subdivided into plots and granted to emancipated slaves settled on a permanent tenure basis and could be

inherited by their children. Pniel is today a small village where freehold title applies.



In 1943, on emancipation day, 1 December, a century after the slave were emancipated in 1843, a slave-bell monument was unveiled in Pniel. The bell was erected by the Rhodes Fruit Farms, owners of De Goede Hoop. On 10 September 1992 another monument was erected in Pniel at the common in front of the church. This also celebrates freedom from slavery. A fountain consisting of a statue of two birds escaping an iron cage was erected to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the church.

FREEDOM ROUTE MEMBERS

Banhoek

Alluvia Guesthouse
Bartinney Wine Estate
Clouds Guesthouse
Hillcrest Berry Orchard
Samburu Cottage
Thelema Mountain Wine Vine yards
Tokara Winery, Olive Shed and Restaurant
Tree Tops Cottage at Stonebridge
Zorgvliet Wine Farm & Le Pommier

Kylemore

Alex Lion Chrysanthemum Show Garden
Yvonne Carolissen Upholstery
Imbali – Live craft and Art Centre (Kylemore High school).
Kylemore community support group
Kyle's catering

Johannesdal

Ashley Mentor Nursery School
Moore's End Guest House
Vuurberg Wine Estate
De Huguenot Estate

Pniel

Boschendal Wine Estate & Resturant
Histories of Pniel Church / Werf
Pniel erfnis en kultuur trust
Winston Stubbs Tours & Transfers
Dawoe Tours

Lanquedoc

The History of Sir Herbert Baker Houses
Yolanda Cloete community clothing project
Tavern in Lanquedoc
Groot Drakenstein Prison
Simonduim Country Lodge
Lekker Wijn Guest House
Solms Delta Wine Estate



Dwarsrivier Tourism Freedom Route

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

The Dwarsrivier Valley comprises the Banhoek Valley and rural towns: Pniel, Lanquedoc, Kylemore and Johannesburg and is geographically located between Stellenbosch and Franschhoek.

This explored and picturesque valley is home to wine estates, restaurants, wedding venues, fruit farms and a host of cultural tourism experiences.

Set along the natural routing from Stellenbosch to Franschhoek, the valley offers visitors a unique collection of full or half day tour options as well as comprehensive overnight B&B packages.

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 local communities. Freedom is now expressed as the local communities prepare to build a future for themselves using tourism as a major aspect.



“LET FREEDOM REIGN AND THE SUN NEVER SET ON SUCH A GLORIOUS HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT”



FEATURES OF THE AREA

Traditionally an agricultural area, the Dwarsrivier has seen a significant increase in the value and importance of tourism as the valley's unique combination of cultural heritage, natural features and scenic beauty offer a unique experience.

The valley and towns comprising the area offer a unique sense of old world rural community, combined with a unique and innovative collection of recreational opportunities.



Bounded by the Simonsberg to SW and the Hottentots Holland in the SW, these mountains being home to pristine fynbos, many species being endemic to the area.

The area is also well known for the quality of its birding as it remains a relatively undisturbed natural area. Hiking in the mountains is considered of a very high quality with easy access and low usage.

Fishing is available as many of the rivers are perennial and maintain a good flow throughout the area whilst mountain biking is also possible on the jeep tracks and forestry roads.



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.

Your support is greatly valued and appreciated.



TOUR OPTIONS

Freedom Tour



The Dwarsrivier Valley has a strong history of freedom! The first liberated slaves settled here in 1843; Nelson Mandela was released from prison not far from Pniel and the people of this community have built a heritage of freedom for themselves. This Tour highlights the history of freedom in this area, the changes it has brought about and the future it holds for the community as seen through their eyes.

*R450.00 p/p. (Half day includes soft drinks and light snacks)
Should you wish to include lunch for either tour, please add R220 p/p.*

Heritage Tour



In addition to the history of slavery, the area has a strong architectural heritage. A walking tour through the town's streets highlighting the memorial Sir Herbert Baker buildings, sensitive church design and other key features of local communities' architecture.

The tour highlights the syntheses of the various forms of architecture and how this has been integrated into the development of the community.

*R450.00 p/p. (Half day includes soft drinks and light snacks)
Should you wish to include lunch for either tour please add R220 p/p.*

For more information on tours:

Tel : 021-8852476

Fax : 021-8852471

Email : info@dwarsriviertourism.org.za

Website : www.dwarsriviertourism.org.za

TOUR OPTIONS

Tin Mine Tour



The scene of one of the first scams in South Africa. This option is a walking tour through the fynbos covered hills surrounding the town to the old mine.

Guests are exposed to the rich biodiversity of the area before exploring the tin mine, devoid of any metal. The owner placed coins in the area, hence the scam.

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

R850.00 p/p. (full day inclusive of picnic lunch)

Wine Tour



Book a wine tour or use a local "hop on guide": who will direct you to unique estates. Your guide will share stories of the valley, highlighting the unique history and feel of the area before pointing you in the direction of one of the many superb lunch options available. The

valley is blessed by some of the finest and unexplored estates offering world class wines whose quality is only surpassed by the hospitality of your host at each estate.

*R450.00 p/p. (Half day includes softs drink and light snacks)
Should you wish to include lunch for either tour please add R220 p/p.*