



Get Swept off your feet in the Cape Winelands



CAPE WINELANDS DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY • MUNISIPALITEIT • UMASIPALA



The Cape Winelands District is nestled in the valleys bordered by Cape Town, the Karoo, Overberg and West Coast and is internationally celebrated for many reasons. During the warm days, visitors of all ages can experience unique activities offering adventure and excitement in wide open spaces under vast blue skies.

And in the evening, when the sun has set and the air feels like velvet, allow the warmth and hospitality that is the hallmark of this district's people to spoil you with award-winning wines, craft beers, artisan gins and delightful menus bursting with local flavours and produce.

The Cape Winelands District comprises an area of 24 000 km² and is the biggest exporter of soft fruit in the southern hemisphere, has the longest stretch of wine routes in the world and is home to unique fynbos and protea flora. One of the attractive aspects for visitors is its easy access and excellent roads – Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, the first areas one enters from Cape Town International Airport, are a mere 30-minute drive. Besides all the usual methods of transport available to visitors, such as self-drive or guided tours, there are a few other wonderful ways to give your feet a rest.

Lift yourself right off the ground by booking a tandem paragliding or hot air balloon flight in Franschhoek – either way you'll be able to see Cape Town's iconic Table Mountain from way up there. For those who prefer to be a little closer to the ground, try a wine tasting on the Wine Tram, or visit several wineries, testing and tasting your way through the Sauvignon Blancs, deep Merlots and light Chenins, knowing that your Tuktuk will do all the driving.

In Stellenbosch there are numerous ways to sweep you off your feet. You can rent segways or bicycles, should you want no bother at all, book an Uber! Stellenbosch is one of the oldest towns in the Cape Winelands and has a rich history to share. Visitors can use any of the above set of 'wheels' to do the 16 km Heritage Walk, which follows the route that the original farm workers would have walked to and from their place of work. It takes one from the original Slave Bell on Die Braak all the way to the quaint village of Pniel. When arriving in Pniel, visitors are met by enterprising local businesses who will delight hungry travellers with local cuisine, such as koesisters or vetkoek filled with homemade apricot jam and farm fresh butter.

The area of Drakenstein that comprises Paarl, Wellington and the two smaller villages of Saron and Gouda is situated right below the world-renowned Paarl Rock, which is home to one of only two



monuments in the world that celebrate language. One of the recent additions to the many activities available in this area is the newly established Paarl Rock mountain bike trail. This circular trail, which is open to bikers and hikers, links all the farms situated around the Rock and allows the user to travel through some 200 km of uninterrupted mountain biking trails. There are those people who love to hear the roar of an engine, and for these excitement seekers there are the quad bike adventures and 4X4 routes. Should you wish to do things at a slower pace, and feel like the original pioneers of old, book a horse outride through the vineyards and into the surrounding veld. Remember to take the time and spend a few days at one of the many comfortable options of accommodation. Leaving the Drakenstein area, visitors have two choices – either travel through the Huguenot Tunnel into the Breede Valley or take the Bain's Kloof Pass into the Witzenberg.

The Witzenberg consists of the towns of Tulbagh, Ceres and the villages of Wolseley, PA Hamlet and Op-die-Berg. The latter name loosely translated means 'on the mountain', which is exactly where the town is located. The town of Ceres was originally established

To plan your visit to the Cape Winelands District, browse the website www.capewinelands.gov.za and click on any of the 15 towns on the map to be redirected to the local tourism association of the selected town. Here, you will find all the accommodation, news, reviews and 'what's on' information particular to that town. Please be assured that most of our guest houses, hotels and other venues have independent electricity supply or are off the national electricity grid to ensure your stay is as comfortable as you dreamed it would be!





by the transport riders who would transport goods from all over the area to the train station, at that time the train line ended at Ceres, from where the train would distribute letters, agricultural produce and items needed by settlers in the areas beyond. In this spectacular area, which was formed by Mother Earth herself, one can view the exceptional geological creations from one of the highest ziplines in South Africa.

Zip across the top of the valley and see what the world looks like from an eagle's view. The local tourism association can also point you to horse riding, 4x4 challenges and, if you are visiting at the right time of year, and the weather has been good, you can trade your feet for a pair of skis! A very popular and exciting visit is the sunset tractor ride to the plateau above Tulbagh, where visitors are spoiled with 360° views from the top of the world. Of course, it would not be complete without the cool, crisp wines and delicious delicacies from the area. The Witzenberg offers opportunities to plant your feet firmly on the floor of a purpose-built game drive truck and if your luck holds, to view the big five. One of the most unique forms of travel in this area, though, is the Ceres Steam

Train, which on certain weekends, offers an overnight photography tour of the magical Witzenberg.

As you leave the Witzenberg via the bottom end of the Tankwa Karoo, you can drive into the Breede Valley from the top end. The Breede Valley consists of the towns of Touwsriver, De Doorns, Worcester and Rawsonville and is the home of export table grapes, wines and of course a number of creative ways to get you right off your feet.

There are 4x4 routes taking you across the top of the Hex River Valley, or you can opt to get your feet wet with some trout fishing, or you could hop onto a golf cart and test your handicap at the beautiful golf course designed by Gary Player. The mountains that surround the town create perfect thermals for gliding and attract visitors from across the world. The best thing about gliding is that it is quiet, there are no noisy engines, just the incredible views and the thrill of catching a perfect thermal. For a little bit of fun and an experience of old, the museum offers donkey cart trips, and horse outrides are available in the area, if the modest donkey is not your style.

After visiting the Breede Valley, you can travel along to the lovely Langeberg, home to sun-kissed dried fruit and the one of the world's newest bridges. The area boasts a stop by the Blue Train, South Africa's well-known hotel on wheels. There are a number of fun ways to get off your feet in the towns of Montagu, Bonnievale, Ashton, McGregor and Robertson. Here, skydiving is the major air sport and over the years many people have experienced the thrill of free falling before being lifted to safety by a parachute.





A lovely way to get to know this area is to rent a vintage Cadillac and take a slow cruise through the valleys, sipping wine here, tasting olives there, visiting the underground MCC cellar, or bottling your own wine. You can even take a ferry ride down the river while enjoying a delicious picnic and some refreshing pomegranate juice or a bottle or two of your favourite craft beer. In two of the towns you can park the Caddy and hop onto a bicycle, which offers a closer view of some of the historical sites. In Montagu you can even do a ghost tour on a bicycle in the twilight! Another highlight for many visitors is the handy hop-on, hop-off tour bus that will take you from destination to destination so that you can enjoy a guilt-free wine tasting experience. Prost!

And when you have had enough of zipping, flying, biking and riding, and you feel the need to be grounded, the Cape Winelands offers the best in hiking and walking tours through historical towns, there is even a waking wine tour! There are swims in cool and natural warm baths, visits to museums and art galleries and a plethora of other activities. And at night, when the day is done, you will find opportunities to practise some star gazing and make wishes on

shooting stars. Due to the low, light pollution and clean air we have some of the brightest night skies in the Western Cape.

For all these reasons and so many more we like to tell people, in the Cape Winelands District we have:

One thousand things to do...and then, some wine.

The Cape Winelands is ideal to visit for those who are physically challenged; the district has a braille trail developed specifically for the blind, and virtually all the destinations are wheelchair or physical aid friendly. Although the Stellenbosch University is a world-renowned tertiary institution, there are others that are as well known and attract students from all over Africa. The National Institute for the Deaf offers the De La Bat School for the Deaf and Innovation, and the Institute for the Blind offers the Pioneer School. These amazing institutions were established during the last century to ensure that people with sensory challenges can be educated so that they can successfully integrate into society and lead fulfilling lives.

