

*Stellenbosch - Pniël
through the Dwarsrivier Valley*



**Journey of
Hope and Healing**

“This walk is not just about healing the injustices of the past, but rallying to working towards the prosperous society we can be.”

Professor Thuli Madonsela

Set against the backdrop of our country’s turbulent history, this 16 km walk aspires to embrace social justice. While acknowledging past injustices, we commit ourselves to create an environment in which all the communities in Stellenbosch can enjoy the immense benefits of our tourism potential.



Programme



8:30

Meet at the Rhyne Sending Kerk. Walk from Stellenbosch town centre to Lückhoff School, passing several places of significance before continuing to the Ida's Valley Dam.

10:30

Enjoy a break at the Ida's Valley Dam while appreciating the spectacular setting.

11:30

Refreshments at the top of Helshoogte Pass before descending into the Dwarsrivier Valley.

12:30

Zorgvliet comfort break. Leaving Zorgvliet behind, we'll cross the R310 into Ou Bethlehem at the Kylemore entrance, continuing to Johannesburg.

13:30

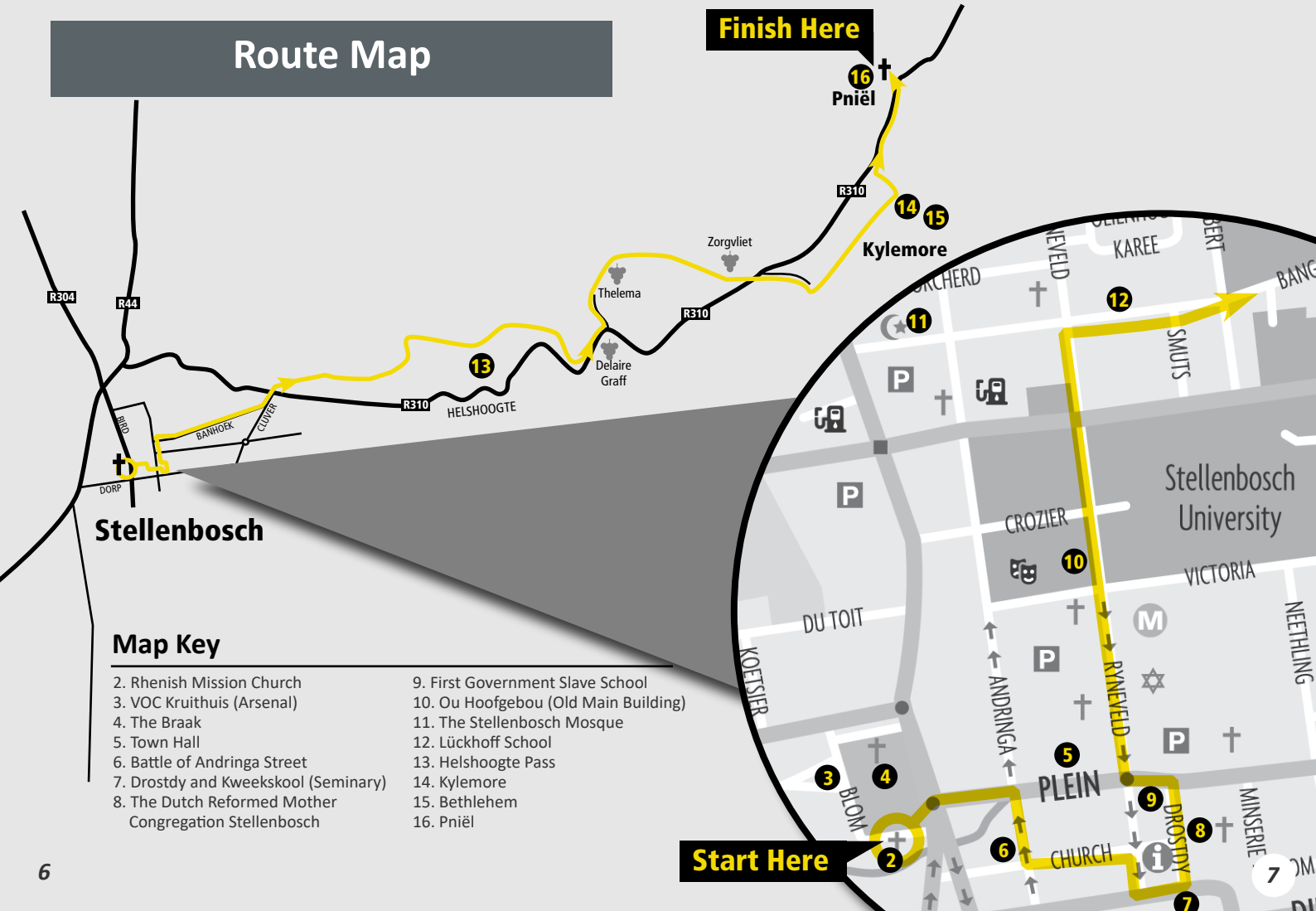
Re-joining the R310 for the last 1.2km to Die Werf, Pniël.

14:00

Arrive at Die Werf, visiting the social impact monuments while waiting for everyone to complete the walk.

Please note that the times are an estimate and calculated on an average walking speed of 4 km per hour.

Route Map



1 Slavery in Stellenbosch

The Stellenbosch District had one of the largest slave populations in the Cape. Slaves had few if any human rights. At the *Kruithuis* (Arsenal), slaves were auctioned and sold to the highest bidder. Any slave found guilty of a transgression was punished. In severe cases, this meant public execution in front of the gaol next to the Drostdy.

2 Rhenish Mission Church

The Stellenbosch Missionary Society concerned itself with the spiritual and educational needs of the slaves. In 1799, Reverend Meeuwes Janse Bakker started a school for slave children in his house. His work was continued by the Reverends Erasmus Smit (1822) and Paul Daniël Lückhoff (1831). In 1824, a church was built on the southern side of the *Braak*, and in 1840, when the Rhenish Missionary Society took over The Stellenbosch Missionary Society, the church was renamed the Rhenish Mission Church.

3 VOC Kruithuis (Arsenal)

Built in 1777, the *Kruithuis* was originally the arsenal of the Dutch East India Company at the Cape. Later it served as the Market House and then from 1859 as a fire station. The building was restored in 1936 and proclaimed a National Monument in May 1940.

4 The Braak

The *Braak* dates back to 1703 when it was used for military exercises. Out of a sense of loyalty to England, the name, King's Square, was used in the first half of the nineteenth century and then changed to Adderley Square. In 1908, a formal decision was taken that the square, that had withstood so many onslaughts over the years, would always be an open space and be used as a public park.

5 Town Hall

There is an artwork portraying Nelson Mandela in front of the Town Hall and a fresco on the library wall depicting the arrival of the Huguenots at the Cape. Both symbolise the struggle for freedom: the Huguenots' flight from political and religious oppression and Nelson Mandela's battle for liberation from political and social oppression.

6 Battle of Andringa Street

On 27 July 1940, several Stellenbosch students became embroiled in a fight with *Coloured* residents, while waiting for the evening newspaper near the corner of Andringa and Plein streets. It was reported that certain students deliberately assaulted the *Coloured* residents. Stone-throwing occurred and students went on the rampage, indiscriminately assaulting *Coloured* families. The destruction and assaults were only brought to an end the next day, when police reinforcements arrived and the rector, Professor RW Wilcocks, intervened.

7 Drostdy and Kweekskool (Seminary)

A *drostdy* is the office or residence of a *landdrost* and in 1687 the *Drostdy* in Stellenbosch was the first to be built in SA. After near collapse it had to be rebuilt in 1709. The fire of 1710 destroyed the second *Drostdy* and the third one that was completed in 1718, also burnt down during a fire in 1762. The fourth *Drostdy* was completed in 1768. In 1846, a consortium of 113 residents bought the *Drostdy* for £1,250 and donated it to the Synod for the construction of a seminary. Over the years a number of alterations and additions were made – in 1905, 1953, 1979 and 2008.

8 The Dutch Reformed Mother Congregation Stellenbosch

The DRC congregation in Stellenbosch was established in 1886 and, on 19 October 1687, the Reverend Johannes van Andel dedicated the church, situated in present-day Church Street. Sadly, the church was gutted during the fire of 1710. A new

church was built on the current site in 1723 and rebuilt in 1814. In 1863 the building was enlarged and refashioned into one of the most elegant in the Cape Colony.

9 First Government Slave School

The long building on the corner of Plein and Ryneveld streets was originally the slave quarters of Bletterman House. From 1825 to 1833, it served as a school for slave children under the Reverend Erasmus Smit and was equipped with 50 benches. Since boys and girls were taught separately, a wooden partition was installed between them. At first, the school had 73 pupils, but by 1827 numbers had risen to 124 pupils. When the school was closed, the children were taught at the Rhenish Mission Church.

10 Ou Hoofgebou (Old Main Building)

The building was officially opened on 6 November 1886 to house the Stellenbosch College. Once

other college buildings had been erected, the Old Main Building came to be referred to as the Main Building. The Faculty of Law has been housed in this building since 1921. An artwork was erected in front of the building in 2020 to celebrate the Constitution of the Republic of SA. The Installation comprises three separate metal plates which depict the preamble of the Constitution in three languages (Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa).

11 The Stellenbosch Mosque

After successfully applying to the Municipal Council for permission to build a mosque, a group of local Malay residents bought an erf in Banghoek Road for £40 and erected the first *masjid* in 1897. Between 1934 and 1935, the *masjid* was destroyed. With the aid of Muslim and Christian artisans, it was rebuilt in two months. The Mosque escaped expropriation when *The Vlakte* was declared a *Whites-only* area in 1964 and still serves the Muslim community today.

12 Lückhoff School

Lückhoff Secondary School was established in 1935 as the first secondary school for Stellenbosch's *Coloured* population. It took years of lobbying by the missionaries of Stellenbosch with the help of some influential academics. The decision was made to name the school after the Reverend Paul Daniel Lückhoff, who had done pioneering work in the field of education of *Coloured* children in Stellenbosch during his tenure as a Rhenish missionary between 1831 and 1877.

After the National Party came to power in 1948, the *Coloured* people who lived in *Die Vlakte* were deleteriously affected by the new discriminatory legislation. On 25 September 1964, *Die Vlakte* was declared a White residential area which resulted in the forced removal of approximately 3 700 people. On 30 October 1969, Lückhoff Secondary School was officially moved to Ida's Valley. It is noteworthy that the old Lückhoff building currently houses the Division for Social Impact at Stellenbosch University.

13 Helshoogte Pass

The Helshoogte Pass connects Stellenbosch and the Banghoek Valley. It was not only on a dangerously steep incline, but there were also gangs, escaped slaves, lions, leopards and other wild animals in the densely forested area. The road from Stellenbosch originally went through Ida's Valley, right up to the neck of the farm *Die Hel* (Hell), which later became Rust-en-Vrede. Today it is known as Kylemore.

14 Kylemore

In 1885 the farm Rust-en-Vrede, was subdivided. Families from Pniel obtained land for housing and in the early 20th century, many informal houses of the working-class agricultural population were erected. In the 1980s and 1990's, municipal housing schemes were introduced in Kylemore. One of the stories how Kylemore got its name was that the area was considered a wetland, and a man named Alexander Kyle bought this land, so the

area became known as Kyle's Moore, i.e. Kylemore. Whether this is myth or fact is still uncertain.

15 Bethlehem

On 28 October 1697, Pierre Simond who was employed by the Dutch East India Company, was appointed as the minister to the Huguenots. He and his wife and their five children moved onto Bethlehem, a farm in the Banhoek Valley, which was granted to him in 1669.

Simond was well equipped to be the leader of the Huguenot community at the Cape. While he was at the Cape, Simond wrote a new rhymed psalter, which was published in 1704. As far as known, it was the first literary publication to be written in South Africa.

16 Pniël

Pniël, which lies at the foot of Simonsberg, is characterised by gardens, fruit orchards and vineyards. The origin of this charming town is closely tied to the emancipation of slaves on 1 December 1834. A philanthropic organisation purchased land and founded a mission station and school to house the emancipated, but homeless slaves. The Reverend Johan Frederich Stegmann of the Apostolic Union became the first minister and superintendent of Pniël in 1843 and served the community until his death in 1910.



Pilgrimage of Hope



The Pilgrimage of Hope is a five-hundred-kilometre walk from Cape Point to the most southern tip of Africa at Cape Agulhas. It is a truly South African experience through the breath-taking landscapes and an opportunity to connect with the hospitality of our diverse and colourful communities and rich history.

The Stellenbosch - Pniël leg forms part of the early stages of the Pilgrimage of Hope



www.pilgrimstogvanhoop.com

Journey of Hope and Healing

Today we acknowledge the injustices of the past.

*The stone is a symbol of the pain, hurt and
humiliation our people have endured.*

We encourage you to carry it as you walk.

*Choose a special spot on the route, take a moment
to honour those who suffered, and leave the stone
there in remembrance. The Spekboom branch
symbolises hope and inspiration. Take it home,
give it a little tender loving care and watch it
grow into a beautiful, thriving tree - just like
the incredible potential of our resilient nation.*

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika

