

COMMUNITY TOURISM  
AMBASSADOR

# STUDY GUIDE

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FOREWORD by Melanie Esterhuyse

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## FOREWORD

### Welcome to the Gateway of the Cape!

Situated only 90 minutes northeast from Cape Town, De Doorns is nestled between the Kwadouw and Hex River Mountain Range, which are snowcapped during winter months.

Not only is the Hex River Valley known as the “Biggest producer of table grapes in South Africa”. It also hosts the Matroosberg (highest Mountain peak in the Cape Winelands) and Hexkoel, the biggest pre-cooler in the Southern Hemisphere. De Doorns Wine Cellar has the longest harvest season in the world! Also unique to the Hex River Valley, is the access to nearby Big 5 Game Reserves, AQUILA and FAIRY GLEN. Did you know that the first fruits ever exported from South African soil, was grown and sent from the Hex River Valley?

Tourists should come to the HEX not just to taste the wines but also to walk the vineyards and experience the intensity of table grape farming. Enjoy a Culture & Heritage tour and establish a relationship to transport them back in time. Route 62 visitors often use this fertile valley as a detour.

In autumn, the vineyard leaves change from a uniform green to yellows, burgundy, russet and mocha, transforming the valley floor into a patchwork of rich earthy tones. A “photo-holic’s” delight!

Through this workshop and by introducing you to this industry of prosperity we hope to not only expand your horizons but also to create an opportunity for you to discover the potential that this industry has in store for YOU!

Melanie Esterhuyse  
**HEX VALLEY TOURISM, Chairperson**

# INTRODUCTION

## What is Tourism?

Tourism is the activities of persons travelling to and staying outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business, and other purposes. Tourism is all about:

- The movement of people
- Two key elements: the journey to and the stay at the destination
- The fact that it takes place outside the usual environment
- The fact that the movement to destinations is short-term and temporary
- the fact that destinations are visited for purposes other than taking up permanent residence or employment.

Tourism, leisure and recreation are closely linked. Therefore, the tourism / hospitality industry should not be considered as a distinct activity, but as one of a number of related activities, namely leisure and recreation.

**Leisure** is defined a 'time spent in or free for relaxation or enjoyment'. This also includes necessary functions such as eat, drink, sleep. **Recreation** is the activities that happen during an individual's leisure time (hobbies, sport activities, games and tourism).

Herewith just a few of these categories:

- Accommodation
- Attractions
  - Outdoor Adventure
  - Culture & History
  - Agricultural Tourism
  - Wine Tourism
  - Sport (Events)
  - Business Tourism (MICE)

## Defining Tourists

A tourist is someone travelling outside their usual environment. The purpose of their visit may be classified under one of the following groups:

- Leisure & holidays
- other tourism purposes (incl. studying or health reasons)
- business and professional (a trip undertaken with the purpose of attending a conference, exhibition, event, or as part of an incentive trip.

Tourists may be further divided into the following categories:

- domestic tourists
- international tourists

TOURISM IS EVERYBODIES BUSINESS  
PLAY YOUR PART

# History Of The HEX RIVER VALLEY

In 1700 W.A. van der Stel handed out the first pasturage licenses in the Land van Waveren (Tulbagh & Wolseley). In 1707, when he was called back to Holland due to his mismanagement, further extension across the old Hottentots Holland Pass took off.

The latter extension took place next to the Sonderend River, while those in the Land van Waveren were situated next to the Breede River with an extension in the Exe River Valley (called that, due to streams and ox wagon routes crisscrossing each other). At that time a desolate paradise for wildlife, like elephants and buffalo. The first pioneer to risk coming into the valley with his livestock to graze, was Roelf Jantz van Hoeting.

He was the first person to receive license to graze his livestock 'under the mountains of Red Sand above the Rock of the Lions'. This was an auspicious date for the valley – the beginning of its modern agricultural history and the advent of European settlement in an area, which until then, had belonged only to the Bushmen and the wild animals, which they hunted for their food.

Other cattle keepers followed Van Hoeting to the valley. Official names of farms began to feature in the records: on 8 December 1723, for instance, Vendutie Kraal (the sale pen) was granted to Jacob van der Merwe and the name of the farm hints at an establishment industry is cattle breeding and auction. In view of the value of land in the valley today it is interesting to note that Mr. Van der Merwe paid 24 rixdollars (R12) for his grant and agreed to deliver one-tenth of his grain crop each year to the landdroos of Stellenbosch; the latter part of the deal he could quite easily evade by not growing any grain at all!

By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century six farms had been granted, covering all the best reaches of the valley. **Kanetvlei** (named after the type of reeds in the marsh there) was in the hands of the Stofberg family; **Roodesand** was owned by the Jourdans and noted for the quality of its Madeira-type wines; **Vendutiekraal** belonged to the Van der Merwes; **Modderdrift** was owned by the Conradies; **De Doorns** (the thorns) was the home of the De Vos family, whose hospitable home was already recognized as the natural community center of the valley; **Buffelskraal**, a farm at the upper end of the valley, was owned by another branch of the same De Vos family.

The farms stretched:

NORTH – Up to the Bokkeveld mountains

EAST – To the government's grounds, now north-east and east of the town. Including farms, today known as Osplaas & Keurbos

WEST - To the government's grounds and an out span. The latter known as Modderdrift-outspan, which was in the middle of the government grounds and as a matter of fact, stretched Mountain-to Mountain, across the valley, including a part of Orchard.

Each farm had a handsome Cape-Dutch style farmhouse and it is in one of these, on Buffelskraal (this specific part of the farm today known as Clovelly), that the legend was born of the fair ghost (the hex or witch) who is supposed to haunt the Hex River Mountains.

**In the year 1768**, just after the house had been built, one of its occupants was a beautiful girl named Eliza Meiring. She was so popular with the local young bloods that she set any would-be suitor the initial task of bringing her a disa from the inaccessible precipices of the 2249-m Matroosberg, the highest peak of the range; the very difficulty of the task was intended to deter unwanted suitors.

Unknown to Eliza, however, the one young man she really favoured set out to surprise her by securing a disa. In the attempt he fell and was killed. The shock deranged the fair Eliza and she had to be locked in an upper room of the house. One night she contrived to force a window open, but in trying to reach the ground she

slipped and was killed. It is said to be her spirit, lamenting the death of her lover, which wanders along the windswept peaks at night and believed by some locals that she committed suicide.

She was called (*die heks van Exevallei*) the witch of the Exe River Valley, and in the mouth of the community the name of the Exe River Valley changed to the Hex River Valley. The date 1768 and the initials 'E.M.' were once carved into the windowsill, but later removed by renovators.

Today, of the original farms in the Hex River Valley, there are nearly 150 subdivisions. The value of any single subdivision is so greatly in excess of the original combined value of the first six farms, that the comparison is ludicrous.

In contrast to the quiet economic conditions of the cattle grazing past, an economic revolution has come to the valley in comparatively recent times. The change began in 1875 when the Hex River railway pass was surveyed by Wells Hood and Built at a cost of R 1 million, to carry the main railway from Cape Town to the north and the diamond fields of Kimberley.

Seven years after the opening of this great railway pass, the first tentative export of table grapes was made to Britain. In 1886 the grapes (red, white and Hanepoot) were privately dispatched to Dr. Smuts in London.

Due to Hanepoot being a very fragile grape it did not arrive in very good condition – probably the reason why it is rather used as a wine grape, not a table grape. This to be the reason why Dr. Perold smuggled a Barlinka vine from Algeria, hid in his cane, into the valley. This grape is much tougher and grew to its full glory here, where at the coast it did not had the same quality.



Picture above: For their finals a film of Eliza Meiring's tragic life was constructed by AFDA Final Year students.

## GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

The Hex River Valley is the gateway between the Western Cape's Boland region and the coast beyond to the south and the plains of the Great Karoo to the north. In fact it is more than simply a gateway as it is the most direct route through the Western Cape Fold Mountains to the north of the country and acts as a logistical funnel for any traffic along this route. The strategic significance of the route has been recognized since the very earliest days of the region's settlement and has had a strong influence on the development of the valley and adjacent regions to the north.

The valley runs from southwest to northeast. It is 25km long and relatively narrow, measuring only 4km wide at its widest point. The valley is surrounded by the towering peaks of the Hex River Mountains to the north and the *Kwadouw* Mountain Range to the south which account for the region's magnificent and rugged scenery. The highest peak in the Hex River Mountain Range is *Matroosberg* and at 2230 meters it is also the highest peak in the Western Cape. It is situated to the north at the eastern end of the valley and the name translates as "Sailor Mountain". The mountain has a very distinctive rock formation on the skyline that resembles a small boat with a sailor standing at the stern.

The valley is both a geological and floral transition zone. The geology of the southwest of the valley is part of the Western Cape's Fold Mountain complex consisting of Table Mountain sandstone. To the northeast of the valley this gives way to Malmesbury Shale and the butte formations typical of the Karoo. The floral transition is from Mediterranean climate *fynbos* to the Succulent Karoo flora and follows the same geographic transition as the geological one.

These massive mountain ranges create a vast catchment area for the valley enabling growers to produce premium table grapes. Inhabitants of the valley receive water from mountain streams that have their sources deep in the mountains where during winter the run-off from snow-capped mountain tops seeps gradually down the slopes and into the pristine mountain streams. The runoff also replenishes the water table in the region's strong aquifers which allows for additional water extraction through boreholes. This water contains minerals and organic material which creates the ideal medium for fruit production.

The vast mountainous area is pristine indigenous *Fynbos* habitat and supports the full range of indigenous flora and fauna. Sightings of klipspringers, porcupines, baboons, mongooses, rock hyraxes and hares are quite commonplace. Although they are more elusive, the area also supports Cape Jackals as well as the magnificent Cape Mountain Leopard. The mountains also support an abundant variety of birdlife including large raptors such as black eagles, often seen hunting high above the mountain cliffs.

These mountains also contain reminders of the earliest human inhabitants of the valley. Rock art painted on the cliffs and caves of the mountains has been found to be 7 000 years old and attests to habitation of the area by the /Xam San, the Southern branch of the San tribe of hunter-gatherers. These were the Western Cape's original inhabitants and the DNA of the San people has proved them to be the closest living relatives to early man. There is evidence that these prehistoric tribes also used the valley as a seasonal migration route, following the herds of antelope into the Karoo during the winter and returning to the permanent rivers in the Western Cape valleys during the summer. Today the spirit of the San is still remembered as locals call the cold wind that blows through the Hex River gorge "die boesmantjie" which translates as the San hunter.

The southern entrance to the valley at Sandhills is through the very narrow gorge formed by the Hex River on its course to the southwest. This part of the route is as spectacular as it is strategic as the main national highway, prime national railroad route and a permanent river all negotiate the gorge entrance which is only 270m wide at this point. The strategic value of this route was recognized during the Boer War as this was the site of a tollhouse constructed to control and monitor the traffic along this route. For some months during the war there was also a British garrison posted at the tollhouse. There was clearly reason for concern as in one instance Boer commando's did in fact travel as far south a mere 40 km northeast of De Doorns.

The area was also influenced by another war as during the Second World War Italian prisoners of war were sent to South Africa. Farmers had the opportunity to apply to have a group of prisoners assigned to them to live and work on the farms in the district. Several Prisoners of War were placed on farms in Sandhills and elsewhere in the valley for the duration of the Second World War.

It is in the Sandhills area that the original name for the valley, the Ex (X) River, was coined. One explanation is that the confluence of 3 rivers in the area formed an X shape and the other was that as the road was forced to repeatedly cross the river through the gorge, creating numerous X shaped crossings in the process. The name was later changed to Hex River and there is a sad and romantic legend attached to this name which will be examined later. The name Sandhills is a misnomer and is most likely an English corruption of the Dutch name *Zanddrift* which means sandy river ford.

The northern entrance to the valley by road is down the rapid descent of the Hex River Pass and rewards the traveller with the first spectacular views of soaring mountains and green cultivated landscapes after travelling through the arid Karoo. The entrance by train is also remarkable but more specifically from an engineering perspective. The Hexton Railway Route through the mountains from *Kleinstraat* Station in the north to De Doorns Station in the valley consists of four tunnels, three passing loops and a road-over-rail bridge. Of the 30 kilometres of track, 16.8 kilometres are underground! This remarkable feat of engineering was completed in 1989 and the four tunnel system includes the longest railway tunnel in Africa.

The stretch of railway between the valley and the Little Karoo Plateau above the Hex River Pass has an interesting history that has influenced all railways in Southern Africa. In the 1870's this stretch presented a major obstacle during the construction of the railway between Cape Town and the diamond fields at Kimberley in the Northern Cape. The very steep gradients that had to be traversed only allowed for the use of a very narrow gauge (distance between the tracks) of 3 ft 6 in (1,067 mm) over the pass. After initially making use of dual gauge, it was eventually decided to convert all existing railway tracks in the Cape Colony to this narrower gauge that was eventually to become known worldwide as Cape Gauge. The fact that most of the present day railway lines in Africa are Cape Gauge can therefore be directly attributed to the Hex River rail pass.

When the new Hexton Railway Route was opened, the old pass and *Osplaas* station became redundant and this is the route used today by the Hexpas Express.

Along the current railway route the De Doorns station is the northernmost station in the valley and is situated in the town of De Doorns. This means the thorns and refers to the Acacia Karoo thorn trees which originally grew very abundantly in the valley. This changed rapidly in the late Victorian era when farmers in the valley started producing brandy. This was a successful way of reduce their produce to the smallest possible bulk in order to transport it by cart across the mountains to Wellington. The brandy distillation process required large quantities of firewood and this unfortunately led to the depletion of virtually all the valley's Acacia Karoo trees.



This industry created prosperity in the valley at the end of the nineteenth century, and a number of “Brandy Palaces” were built. To this point homestead architecture had largely been according to the Cape Dutch style such as seen at the gracious De Vlei Country Inn near De Doorns. This prosperous era saw the introduction of homesteads built in the Late Victorian Art Nouveau style. A splendid example of this is *Arbeid Adelt* Manor, a beautiful restored homestead built lavishly in this distinctive style.

Travelling north east from Sandhills the next station along the route is Hex River Station. One of the original farms in the area was called *Vendutie Kraal* which means auction corral. This was the site of livestock auctions and the buyers were usually travellers trekking through the valley to the interior of the country. The wagon road also crossed the river again at Hex River.

This station shares its name with the valley and the name is popularly attributed to the legend of the Hex of Hex River Valley. The name “Hex”, the Dutch/Afrikaans word for witch and the legend is based on a true story from the early days of the valley’s settlement. It is about the beautiful young Eliza Meiring, who challenged her suitors to climb to the heights of Matroosberg peak behind her parents’ home, saying that she would marry the one who brought her a rare Disa orchid from its treacherous heights. Her favourite suitor slipped and fell to his death and Eliza was racked with guilt and grief by this tragedy. Her mourning was so intense that she lost her mind and had to be confined to her home as all she wanted to do was head into the mountains to look for him. One day she tried to escape from an upper floor window but fell head first and was killed. From this sad story the legend grew and it is said that at full moon Eliza’s spirit can be found wondering the mountain slopes of the *Matroosberg*, searching for her lost love.

The station between Hex River and De Doorns is known as Orchard Station. This station was named and constructed by the Cape Orchard Company in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. New technology, available infrastructure and a visionary pioneer named Leicester Maguire Dicey started international fruit exports from Orchard and thus some of the earliest origins of an international industry worth billions today were founded on this site.

Cold storage ship transport was in its early stages of development and the railway through the Hex Valley had recently been completed. This presented the possibility of producing fruit in South Africa for export to the UK. International fruit shipments were in an early, experimental phase and Dicey recognised the possibility that this offered. Dicey, his brother-in-law Malleson and a cousin of Dicey’s founded the Cape Orchard Company with this as the company’s objective. The company bought the farm *De Modderdrift* at what is today Orchard. Here the company produced apples, pears and peaches for shipment to London. This pioneering venture was a great success, producing many firsts in horticultural and transport technology. It was also one of the first pioneering fruit exporting ventures that initiated the start of the Western Cape and indeed South African fruit industry. During the past 60 years the orchards around Orchard Station have been replaced by more profitable table grape vineyards.

Orchard is also the site of Hexkoel cold storage facility. This massive co-operative cold storage facility is one of the largest of its kind internationally, cooling and dispatching around 16 million cartons of table grapes produced in the area during the grape season between December and April. The Hex River Valley is the oldest and one of the largest table grape production regions in South Africa. Table grapes have been cultivated in the valley and exported for over 100 years and the economy of the area is based almost entirely on the production of table grapes for the export market. The striking autumn colours produced by the vine leaves during May and June with the backdrop of snow covered peaks makes the Hex River Valley a favourite destination for photographers during this season.

# TOWN INFORMATION

The local village **De Doorns** (460 m above sealevel) is situated right in the middle of the Hex River Valley, the biggest producer of export table grapes in South Africa.

This traditional home of the S.A. Table Grape Industry has been producing and exporting grapes for a century. Approximately 18 million cartons of grapes are exported annually. The harvesting season runs from early January until mid April.

The valley proudly accommodates the wine cellar with the longest harvest season in the world and the Hex River Mountain with the highest peak in the Western Cape. The Matroosberg peak is 2249 m above sea level.

Like most towns in the countryside, it offers the services of:

## ❑ **Post Office**

The whole valley is served by one office situated in the midst of De Doorns.

## ❑ **Library**

The study area consists of one library with two personnel members. Reading matter is limited in a variety of different languages. Access to library services needs to be extended.

## ❑ **Graveyards**

There are two graveyards – Municipal graveyard and the VGK graveyard. Last-named is situated on the outskirts of town has the necessary space and not used as often.

## ❑ **Municipality**

The De Doors Municipality is managed as a branch of the Breede Valley District Municipality (BVM).

## ❑ **Butcheries**

Uys, Dick's, and Spar's butcheries serve the local and surrounding communities of fresh poultry and red meat.

## ❑ **Supermarkets**

Spar, Savemore Shoprite, Vallei Supermark (Lucky 7) and a few private supermarkets is strategically spread all over town.

## ❑ **Banks**

Banking is provided by:

- First National Bank (FNB)
- ABSA
- Standard Bank
- Nedbank

## ❑ **Clinic**

The Boland District Municipal Clinic, situated in De Doorns East and open daily from 08:00 until 16:30. Other branches in Sandhills, Orchard and Touwsriver offer primary health services. The Hex-Kem Pharmacy also runs a private clinic.

Veterinary Services is also on offer two times a week by the Boland Animal Clinic.

## ❑ **Pharmacy**

The Hex-Kem Pharmacy delivers excellent services and products to the valley. In order to be of efficient help to all in the community, personnel members are trained to speak Xhosa in order assist clients of all cultures. Hex-Kem even offers fun filled events, like Side Walk Art Competitions with a health theme, in order to teach young children all about this crucial aspect.

❑ **General Practitioners**

Three doctors currently serve the HEX:

- Drs. Erasmus & Kok. Tel: 023-356 2315
- Dr. Jonker Tel: 023-356 2086

❑ **Petrol / Service Stations**

Grape Valley Engen, Non Pareil Garage, Orchard Engineering and Central Garage cover these needs.

❑ **Churches**

Dutch Reformed Church (NG Kerk)

AGS

Catholic Church

Zion Church

Apostolic Churches

❑ **Police Station**

Station Commander: Colonel A. Kriel Tel: 023-356 4020

❑ **Schools**

Hex Valley High School

Principal: Mr. Trevor Scheepers Tel: 023-356 2229

Hex Valley Secondary

Principal: Mr. J. Robinson Tel: 023-356 2286

Hex River Educational Center

Principal: Ms. San-Maré Bauermeister Tel: 023 354 8800

Orchard Primary

Principal: Mr. Blom Tel: 023-354 8940

Van Cutsem Combined School

Principal: Mrs. TJ Jafta Tel: 023-356 2797

Sandhills Primary

Principal: P. Weber Tel: 023-357 9614

Bonne Esperance Primary

Principal: R. Paulse Tel: 023-356 2434

Rabie Primary

Principal: M. Olivier Tel: 023-356 3268

Sibabalwe Primary

Principal: Mrs. M. Dopolo Tel: 083 543 6864

FJ Conradie

Principal: A. de Bruyn Tel: 023-356 2562

Iris Qwela Primary

Principal: L. Macata Tel: 023-354 8750

# ACTIVITIES

## 1. OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS

### HEXPAS ECOTREK: Two Tunnel MTB Trail

If you're looking for a challenge or just want to enjoy the tranquillity of the nature, this is a truly memorable route. The railway Route is 13.5 km long. Both routes start at the Veldskoen Farm Stall and take cyclists to the Tunnel. The Kloof Route is an easier route and only 13 km long. Alternative routes can be taken to the Kaffrarian Rifles Monument or the Appaskop view point.

The two tunnel mountain bike trail traverses the northern part of the scenic Hex River Valley along one of the first railway tracks in South Africa built during the 1870's.

The route passes through one of the original twin railway tunnels after which Tunnel Station provides a good location for a midday stop. From Tunnel station, cyclists who prefer a longer route can take the 4km detour to the Kaffrarian Rifles Monument, and/or the 10km detour to Appaskop to enjoy the spectacular views.



The main route of 20km is moderate but includes a few steep climbs. Optional detours extend the route to about 35km with breathtaking views of the Hex River Valley and the Matroosberg Mountains. While many serious mountain bikers enjoy the challenge the trail has to offer, it is also quite suitable for family and group excursions.

The trail starts and finishes at the Veldskoen Farm Stall on the N1, 4.5km north of De Doorns. Permits must be obtained at the Veldskoen Farm Stall. This includes a map of the trail. Veldskoen is open 7 days a week from 08:30 to 17:00. We also host the yearly Hex Valley Autumn Splendour MTB Challenge. Contact us for more information.

**Contact: Nienke Jordaan**

**Cell: +27 (0)83 292 0348, [njordaan@telkomsa.net](mailto:njordaan@telkomsa.net)**

**HEXPAS ECOTREK: Botterboom Trail** This is a hiking trail that provides an interesting glimpse of the history of transport of the former Cape Colony.

The full length of the Botterboom Hiking Trail is a two and a half day hike and it was designed to provide enjoyment and some adventure for both serious walkers and casual outdoor enthusiasts.

The region is steeped in history and is exceptionally pretty and as the trail takes in all aspects of the region, it provides a little of something for everyone. The trail follows part of the route of the first railroad built to the north of the country in the 1870's. This was constructed through the mountains of the Hex River Valley and became the main form of transport to Kimberley for the Diamond Rush period.



Hikers will have the opportunity to see a large variety of indigenous plants on the trail so look out for Botterboom, Aloe, Ghwarrie and Namaquakoeniebos.

The hike begins at the Veldskoen Padstal on the N1 highway. Hikers need to obtain a permit from here before starting the trail. The first day takes the hiker up and along the top of the mountains near Osplaas and rewards hikers with picturesque views of the valley and Matroosberg Mountains. On descent hikers cross the railway line and then spend the night at the Scooby Doo hut.

Day Two of the hike starts on the lower mountains and proceeds up the Appaskop (to a height of 850m). The views of the entire Hex River Valley from this point are spectacular. For more experienced hikers there is the option to hike across the old railway bridges to the Kaffrarian Rifles Monument and on then to Tafelberg which is the highest peak in the region (1100m).

Hikers on this route are rewarded with views of both the Hex River Valley and the Koo Valley to the east. Overnight accommodation is provided at the Tunnel Railway Station in a hut that can sleep 8. Tents, firewood and fresh water are provided.

The hike's final day meanders back downhill through the Osplaas Valley and follows the railway service road back towards Veldskoen Padstal.

**Contact: Nienke Jordaan**

**Cell: +27 (0)83 292 0348, [njordan@telkomsa.net](mailto:njordan@telkomsa.net)**

## 2. **CULTURAL & HISTORICAL TOURS**

**Historical Homestead and San Rock Art Tours** is ideal for people passionate about culture, history and architecture.

**Contact:** Louise Brodie

**Cell:** 078 168 0113

**Email:** [ochreworks@freshpix.co.za](mailto:ochreworks@freshpix.co.za)



**HEXPAS ECOTREK: Hexpas Express.** A unique railway experience awaits enthusiasts, young and old. This is a rail trolley trip up the Hex River Pass, overlooking the Hex River Valley and the majestic Matroosberg.

Learn about the history of this abandoned 3'6" (narrow gauge) railroad that negotiates the steep gradient climbs of up to 1:40 of the Hex River Pass between Hexpas and Matroosberg stations. This was originally built in the 1870's but replaced by the new modern (and 8 km shorter) rail in 1989. This old track runs through one of our region's most beautiful areas.



Two coaches (trolleys) are drawn by a vintage Fordson 35 horse power tractor. The tractor was adapted for the highest levels of security and comfort of the passengers when they travel at a maximum speed of about 20 km/h. During the trip visitors will also have the opportunity to walk through one of the country's oldest railroad tunnels dating back more than 140 years.

During the ride, the guide identifies some of the indigenous plants (including 'botterboom' and aloe) as well as some often curious indigenous wildlife. The remains of British blockhouses still guard the handmade rock cuttings as they did during the Boer War in the early 1900s and each century-old rock inscription left on the walls of this cutting by British soldiers tells its own story.

Different seasons of the year provide varying scenery. Winter offers snow-capped in every direction (remember to bring warm clothes) while autumn creates a breathtaking artist palette of colours as the world famous vineyards of the Hex River Valley prepare to shed their leaves.

Whether you want to bring the family on an unforgettable outing, spend the night as a corporate team, enjoy photography and arts, or a historian, an opportunity to join an excursion on the Hexpas Express should not be missed.

Time for Picnic at Tunnel Station is included on all trips. Bring your own picnic basket or buy snacks from the Veldskoen Farm Stall.

**Contact: Nienke Jordaan**

**Cell: +27(0) 84 206 4388, [njordaan@telkomsa.net](mailto:njordaan@telkomsa.net)**

### 3. **AGRI TOURISM**



**Louise Brodie** is a local registered tour guide. She has a very good knowledge of the history and hidden treasures of our valley as well as an extensive knowledge of the table grape industry, the valley's most largest source of revenue.

She grew up in the valley, has a passion for the place and its people and has many years of experience as a tour guide. Her tours are both interesting and fun!

Tour types:

- Agri Tours - Table Grape specific
- General interest

Minimum number of guests: 2. Guests can be collected and dropped from venues in the Hex River Valley. Booking essential!

**Louise Brodie**

**Cell: +27(0) 78 168 0113**

**[ochreworks@freshpix.co.za](mailto:ochreworks@freshpix.co.za)**

**Grand View** is one of the larger grape packing facilities in the valley and, as the name suggests, it has a commanding view over the valley's vineyards. Grand View offers visitors the opportunity to taste a range of different table grape varieties according to seasonal availability during the harvest.





The characteristics of each variety (including red, white and black seedless varieties) explained as guests proceed through the tasting process.

This venue also provided the opportunity for a tour through the table grape pack house, explaining the various steps of this complex procedure.

Packshed and grape tasting tours are only available during the harvest season between January and March. Bookings are required.

**Contact: Judi Viljoen**

**Tel: +27 23 356 8713**

**Email: [judi@asvfarms.co.za](mailto:judi@asvfarms.co.za)**

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The **De Doorns Cellar** was established by table grape farmers of the Hex River Valley in 1968. During the table grape harvest, farmers deliver their excess table grapes to the cellar for pressing and the manufacture of spirits. The Cellar mainly supplies in bulk to well known wine and spirit companies.

The cellar also produces a small percentage of selected bottled wines that are available to the public. The Cellar's range consists of dry and semi-sweet wines, a tasty Demi-Sec sparkling wine, excellent Cabernet Sauvignon, rich Muscadell, a full sweet sherry and a medium dry sherry.

These wines can be bought or ordered from the attractive Cape Dutch Wine & Tourism Centre on the N1 at the entrance to the town of De Doorns. Wine tasting and free cellar tours are available by appointment.

**Contact: Danie Koen (Cellar Master)**

**Tel: +27 23 356 2100**

**Tel: +27 23 356 2835 (Sales)**

**Email: [ddwk@hexvallei.co.za](mailto:ddwk@hexvallei.co.za)**

**[www.dedoornscellar.co.za](http://www.dedoornscellar.co.za)**



**Modderdrift Grapes** hosts one of the most technical up to date pack sheds in the Hex River Valley.

**GPS: S33°28'28.33" E19°37'12.70"**

**Contact: Jacques Beukes**

**Cell: 082 447 3885**

**Email: [jbeukes@modderdrift.co.za](mailto:jbeukes@modderdrift.co.za)**



#### 4. **SPORT TOURISM**

**Hex Valley Golf Club** is an important facility for the sporting and recreational activities of the local community. This well established and maintained 9-hole golf course and club was established in 1992 by local farmers.

Golf is very popular in the valley and the club has a healthy membership and enjoys enormous support from the local community. The large club house is well equipped to cater for the needs of individual members as well as the tournaments regularly hosted by the club.



**Contact: Guys Genis**

**Tel: +27 (0) 23 356 3379**

**Email: [info@hexgolf.co.za](mailto:info@hexgolf.co.za)**

**[www.hexgolf.co.za](http://www.hexgolf.co.za)**



#### 5. **BUSINESS TOURISM** (Restaurants, Conferencing, Coffee Shops, Supermarkets, Schools, etc.)

**The Veldskoen Farm Stall** is just 4 km north of De Doorns and is truly a delightful stop along the road. This is a regular stop for regular travelers along this route who treat Veldskoen as a halfway house along their journey and is also enormously popular with the local valley residents.

The shop is well stocked with a wide array of tasty goodies for sale and most of the produce is sourced within a 100km radius. The Veldskoen's ample wine shop also sells local wines from the North Boland area.

The Veldskoen also has a restaurant and their trained chef offers a delicious selection of dishes. The restaurant has tables indoor amongst the interesting displays as well as under the spacious shady verandah in the garden. The farm stall's convenient location also makes it a firm favorite for business meetings over lunch or a refreshing drink.





The shop is decorated with beautiful furniture and knick knacks. Don't miss the displays of quirky objects from yesteryear that the owners have sourced from attics and junkyards near and far!

**Contact: Eugene & Nadia le Roux**

**Tel: +27 (0) 23 356 2619**

**Email: [deliciousn1@gmail.com](mailto:deliciousn1@gmail.com)**

**Kranskloof** is an ideal conference and team building facility for groups who want to get away from it all. Kranskloof (cliff ravine) is well named as it is tucked away in a ravine in the rolling hills in the North of the Hex River valley at the foot of a majestic shale cliff.

The kitchen and conference facilities are well suited for large groups to a maximum of 70 people. The dormitories with double bunks create an ideal social camp environment and the rolling lawn, shady trees and swimming dam add to the relaxed Little Karoo atmosphere. Kranskloof also has a spacious "lapa" outdoor recreation and barbeque facility.

**Contact: Carien van Huyssteen**

**Tel: +27 (0) 23 356 2359**

**Email: [skriba@murraygemeente.co.za](mailto:skriba@murraygemeente.co.za)**



**The following accommodation establishments also have CONFERENCE FACILITIES:**

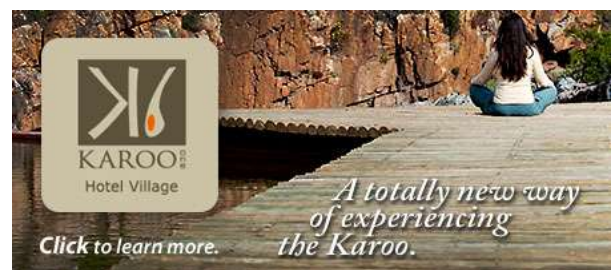
- **Karoo One Hotel Village**

Karoo 1 Hotel Village has extensive luxury accommodation (32 rooms), its own wedding chapel, a licensed restaurant, a bar and conference facilities.

Maximum of 100 delegates.

Tel: 023 358 2131,

Email: [info@karoo1.com](mailto:info@karoo1.com)



- **Arbeid Adelt Guest House**

With their tranquil garden, drifting lawn, accommodation and conference facilities at hand, this is the ideal venue for an intimate country style wedding.

Maximum of 80 delegates.

Tel: 023 356 2204,



Email: [arbeidadeltguest@telkomsa.net](mailto:arbeidadeltguest@telkomsa.net)

- **Monte Roza Guest House**

This fully equipped conference facility accommodates groups of 20 to 40 delegates. Additional services on offer: Catering. Tel: 023 356 2530, Email: [zjordan@hexvallei.co.za](mailto:zjordan@hexvallei.co.za)



Optional:

- **Hexvallei Ledeklub:** Can accommodate up to 450 people. Situated on the grounds of the De Doorns Wine Cellar. Also offers the luxury of squash and tennis courts, snooker club, TV room, bar & restaurant. Offers catering services for functions.
- **Club 1000:** Accommodate up to 80 people. Situated on the grounds of the Hex Valley High School. Offers kitchen facilities and safe parking.
- **Hexvallei Handelsentrum:** Previously managed as the De Doorns Hotel. Can accommodate up to 40 people in the restaurant. Offers the entertainment of pool tables, TV room and bar.

The **Hex Valley Educational Centre** is a home schooling centre established in 2008 as a result of a need in the community and currently provides education for around 100 children. The centre provides an environment based on the fundamental philosophy that children learn best through active participation. This is achieved through a focus on personal attention with small class sizes. The centre is set on beautiful farm grounds in Orchard and this creates a family environment.

We strive to help each child reach their full potential. We follow the well-known Impak Curriculum. Our curriculum is presented in Afrikaans and provides for individual attention to enhance our learner's life skills and this is integrated with learning material which develops a child's moral understanding of the world underpinned with Christian values. *"Here we blossom!"*

**Contact: Tessa Saayman**

**Tel: +27 23 354 8800**

**Email: [hexrivier.sentrum@gmail.com](mailto:hexrivier.sentrum@gmail.com)**

**Braveheart Kidz @ Peace Ministries.** This company is a children's house of safety which serves as a temporary shelter for children. The Home provides the first step in care of children in need within the valley's service area and assists the families involved.

Situated in a spacious home in an established De Doorns suburb, the facility is well equipped to care for the needs of children. The facility caters for orphans and children whose parents are too ill or unable to care for them. The home thus provides a place of safety for children in need and a home for foster care children. As the Hex River Valley has a large underprivileged population, there is a considerable need for this service.

As Braveheart Kidz @ Peace Ministries works together with local government, welfare organizations and local clinics, the best care possible is given to these children.

The children are well cared for and are generally healthy, happy children. This company is a public benefit organization.

**Contact: Gerda de Goede**

**Tel: +27 (0)23 356 3188**

**Fax: +27 (0)86 672 3362**

**Cell: 082 835 7676**

**Email:braveheartkidz@gmail.com**



**Hex Supermark** at Hex River Station. With two of their staff members registered as Community Tourism Ambassadors, this facility also serves as a sub tourist information centre for those taking the road less travelled along the HEXcape Grape Route. Open 7 days a week.

**Contact: Gerrit Moller**

**Tel: +27 (0)72 331 6437**

**Cell: 082 499 3460**

**Email:mollercj@vodamail.co.za**



# ACCOMMODATION

## De Vlei Country Inn

### Bed and Breakfast Accommodation

De Vlei Country inn is a beautiful old Cape Dutch homestead with surrounding cottages situated amongst table grape vineyards in the northern part of the Hex River Valley, below Matroosberg, the Western Cape's highest peak. The manor house dates back to 1859 and was the original homestead on De Vlei Farm.

Guests are accommodated in five free standing thatched bungalows with en suite bathrooms in the ample garden adjacent to the manor house. The inn also has a comfortable dining room and lounge with large windows, allowing guests to appreciate the view of the rose garden and towering mountains beyond. This is also a great place to enjoy winter evenings snuggled up in front of a roaring fire.

During summer guests can laze by the pool soaking up the sun and the beautiful scenery. There is also a shaded summer house area at the pool. This is an ideal spot to make use of the barbeque as well as barbeque facilities. Dinner is served by prior arrangement only. Children are always welcome.

**Contact: Jean & Babette de Robillard**

**Tel:** +27 (0)23 356 3281

**Fax:** +27 (0)23 356 3281

**Cell:** +27 (0) 83 311 8570

**Email:** devleicountryinn@telkomsa.com

[www.devleicountryinn.co.za](http://www.devleicountryinn.co.za)



## The Grange

### Self catering accommodation

The Grange has a welcoming, home-from-home feeling. This is a comfortable, self catering house where guests can truly make themselves at home with the use of the bedrooms, en-suite bathrooms, kitchen and sitting room with TV. The thick walls of this solidly build old farm house ensure that it is cool during the hot summer months and cosy in winter.

The Grange has 4 bedrooms with 4 bathrooms and a chalet and the 4th room can be divided in two separate sections providing a 5th room. This large old home was big enough to make provision to divide it into two self contained units each with 2 en-suite bedrooms, TV lounge and a fully equipped kitchen. Bedding and towels provided. An additional chalet with open-plan kitchen sleeps 2. The house is surrounded by vineyards and olive groves.





At the back of the house there is a wide shaded veranda with outside barbeque facilities. This is an ideal spot to unwind at the end of the day.

**Contact: Annette Jordaan**

Tel: +27 (0)23 356 2247

Fax: +27 (0)86 543 4915

Cell: +27 (0)82 870 5528

Email: [thegrange@hexvallei.co.za](mailto:thegrange@hexvallei.co.za)

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## **Arbeid Adelt Guest House**

### **Bed and breakfast & Self catering accommodation; Conference and Wedding venues**

**Arbeid Adelt** is a magnificent country manor which incorporates late Victorian and Art Nouveau features. This is one of the valley's remaining "Brandy Palaces" built in the 1890's during a period when brandy production brought prosperity to the area. This beautiful and iconic home is set in a sweeping, shaded garden on a working farm and has been lovingly restored to its former glory.

The main house has 4 generous en-suite bedrooms. During winter guests can enjoy an evening by the fireplace. Behind the main house there is a self catering cottage with three bedrooms that accommodates 6 people. In the garden there is also a roof top "tree house" flat just below the branches of one of the ancient oaks and this en-suite unit sleeps 2.

The generous lawns and ancient Oak trees create a perfect camping spot and there are 4 camp sites with electrical points. The large lawn in front of the manor house can also accommodate a marquee tent for large functions.

The homestead also has a 60-seater conference space. This is housed in an old 110 year-old barn and can accommodate business conferences, private functions and office parties. Prices of this facility are available on request.

**Contact: Susan de Villiers**

Tel: +27 (0) 23 356 2204

Fax: +27 (0) 86 692 7047

Cell: +27 (0)82 409 7443

Email: [arbeidadeltguest@telkomsa.net](mailto:arbeidadeltguest@telkomsa.net)

[www.arbeidadelt.co.za](http://www.arbeidadelt.co.za)



## **Monte Roza Guest House**

### **Self catering accommodation and conference and wedding venues**

Monta Roza offers visitors a farm stay on the outskirts of town – truly the best of both worlds. The four self catering units are situated adjoining a beautifully restored farm house on a working farm. This is right on the edge of town, close to the town amenities and the units all have uninterrupted, sweeping views of the vineyards and Matroosberg to the north.

Each unit has its own bathroom, air condition, fridge, TV with shared DSTV and opens onto a shady veranda and lush, well-kept garden. Towels and bedding are provided and a communal barbeque facility is available.

Monte Roza also has a conference facility with licensed pub and catering services that can accommodate a maximum of 80 people, 40 inside and 40 outside under a permanent tent. This is also an ideal venue for functions.



**Contact: Zelda Jordaan**  
**Tel: +27 (0)23 356 2530**  
**Fax: +27 (0)23 356 3458**  
**Cell: +27 (0) 82 300 7027**  
**email:zjordan@hexvallei.co.za**

## Impangele Mountain Resort

### Selfcatering accommodation



The five thatched self-catering cottages at Impangele Mountain resort are perched on the very crest of a small mountain with majestic views of the Hex River Valley and Matroosberg to the North. The cottages, clubhouse and swimming pool are set in large pristine succulent Karoo Fynbos conservancy. The establishment provided an ideal mountain retreat and provides a range of outdoor activities to choose from.

The five chalets are fully equipped and can accommodate 4 guests each. The chalets each have a private deck and barbeque facilities. The clubhouse has a swimming pool, an entertainment and barbeque area and full DSTV. Wood and firelighters are available for sale. Enjoy the quiet surroundings. Bring your mountain bike and hiking shoes along to enjoy the beautiful trails available to guests.

The clubhouse, with its spectacular views, is available for conferences and can accommodate up to 20 people. The Veldskoen Farm Stall, +/- 4km from the lodge, is open daily from 08:30 to 17:00 with full restaurant facilities.

There is a Spar Supermarket located in the town of De Doorns, +/- 10km from the resort.

**NOTE:** Most normal sedans can negotiate the road up the mountain, but cars that are lower should take care when travelling up the road.

**Contact: Nienke Jordaan**  
**Cell: +27 (0)83 292 0348**  
**Fax: +27(0)23 356 3662**  
**Email: njordaan@telkomsa.net**

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## Buffelsberg Cottages

### Self catering accommodation

Buffelsberg cottages are situated at the northern entrance to the Hex River Valley, at the foot of the Hex River pass with easy access from the N1 highway. The two units are on a working farm in a beautifully restored old barn with old wooden beams and stone walls. This truly is a farm stay as the paddock with various animals including a very tame goose is right next to the two units.

These very comfortable units are self-contained with safe parking. One accommodates 2 people and one accommodates 4 people. The thick walls and tinted windows ensure good insulation, providing a cool interior during the hot summers. The units have barbeque facilities and guests are free to walk on the farm and visit the nearby dam where there are good bird watching opportunities.

**Contact: Deon & Aletta Palm**  
**Tel: +27 23 356 2677**  
**Email: [deon@breede.co.za](mailto:deon@breede.co.za)**

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## Matroosberg Selfhelp

### Self catering accommodation (Townstay)

Matroosberg Selfhelp provides comfortable self catering facilities in De Doorns within safe walking distance of the town centre, school and town sports fields. This home-from-home accommodation is in an established suburb of De Doorns with easy access to the N1 highway.

The establishment provides accommodation in a free standing cottage as well as in the main house, all with full kitchen facilities and private access. Safe off-street parking is available as well as a private outside entertainment area with barbeque facilities.

**Contact: Ellis Stears**  
**Tel: +27(0) 23 356 2332**  
**Cell: +27 (0) 72 236 5828**

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## Hex Overnight

### Self catering accommodation

Not only does Hex Supermarket at Hex River Station serve as a sub-information station, it also offers self-catering accommodation adjacent to the commercial property.

The house has three double bedrooms, a bathroom and an open plan kitchen and living area with full DSTV. The unit has an enclosed yard with safe, off street parking.

**Contact: Gerhard Moller**

**Tel: +27 (0)72 331 6437**

**Cell: 082 499 3460**

**Email: mollercj@vodamail.co.za**



## Karoo One Hotel Village

Karoo One is an exciting, somewhat exotic hotel village situated north of the Hex River Valley. As the name implies, this is the first stop in the Karoo after ascending the formidable Hex River Pass from the South. This charming getaway is built around an old Cape Dutch homestead with large old Pepper trees, so evocative of the Great Karoo. The farm has long been a stopover on the road to the North of the country and has an interesting connection with Boer War history.

Karoo 1 Hotel has extensive luxury accommodation (32 rooms), its own wedding chapel, a licensed restaurant, a bar and conference facilities. The location offers various outdoor activities such as game watching, mountain biking, team building and just simple relaxation in the clear Karoo air. Playful springbok browse near your room.

**Tel: +27 (0)23 358 2131**

**Cell: +27 (0) 079 081 5517**

**Fax: +27 23 358 2132**

**Email: info@karoo1.co.za**

**[www.karoo1.com](http://www.karoo1.com)**





## Arubah Cottage

### Self catering Accommodation (Townstay)

Arubah Cottage offers affordable selfcatering accommodation with a cozy living room and open plan kitchen, a door from the lounge leads to a covered stoep with outdoor dining area, facing a secure and private garden with BBQ (braai) area and swimming pool.

Fully equipped with everything required for an enjoyable, extended stay. 2 Double rooms, DSTV (Full Package), Safe parking, Braai facilities. Business Tourism packages available.

**Contact person: Estelle Schoeman**

**Mobile: +27(0) 72 227 7717**

**Email: [estelschoeman@gmail.com](mailto:estelschoeman@gmail.com)**



SEASONAL \* DISCOUNTED

## CORPORATE ACCOMMODATION

OUR HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY PROVIDE THE IDEAL VENUES FOR BUSINESS TRAVELLERS, ON BOTH LONG AND SHORT TERM STAYS.

T&C's APPLY



**HEX RIVER VALLEY**

VISIT: [www.hexrivalley.co.za/category/accommodation](http://www.hexrivalley.co.za/category/accommodation)

# LOCAL ANNUAL EVENTS

## JANUARY

Golf Competition: Bo-vallei vs. Onder-vallei

## FEBRUARY

Brodie Golf League: Hex vs. Robertson

**HTA Blok Kompetisie**

Brodie Golf League: Worcester vs. Hex

Saturday Brodie Golf League: Ceres vs. Hex

## MARCH

Brodie GL: Hex vs. Montagu

Hex Vallei Women Open

**Golf Club Championship**

## APRIL

Women Night Golf Challenge

Unika Golf Day

## MAY

Brodie GL: Robertson vs. Hex

**Sanlam Cancer Golf Day**

**Autumn Splendour MTB Race**

**Autumn Splendour Half Marathon**

## JUNE

Brodie GL: Hex vs. Ceres

Brodie GL: Montagu vs. Hex

## JULY

Brodie GL: Hex vs. Riverside

Gim vs. HJS Golf Day

## AUGUST

**Hoerskool Hexvallei Interskole**

Hex Valley High Golf Day

## SEPTEMBER

Koop & Bou Golf Day

Kosie van Eeden Golf Day

## OCTOBER

**Hexrivier Opvoedkundige Sentrum Golfdag**

Terason Golf Day

## NOVEMBER

Hex Security Golf Day

Golf Masters Tournament

**Hex Golf Classic**

Hex Golf Open (Snr. & Jnr.)

**ASV Farms vs. Mpact Golf Day**

Longest Drive Golf Competition

# ECONOMY

## **ECONOMY BASIS**

The Hex River Valley is the biggest producer of table grapes in South Africa. Hexkoel has the biggest pre-cooler in the Southern Hemisphere.

The town is very dependant on the agricultural sector, which supplies 80 % work opportunities for the economically active part of the population.

Due to the De Doorns economy relying on the agricultural sector, a huge quantity of employees is seasonally (October to April) employed. This causes consequent implications for the Town Council.

## **EMPOWERMENT IN THE HEX:**

### **DE DOORNS SAAMWERKERS**

This project was started in 2005 with 9 shareholders, all of whom are on the staff of the De Doorns Winery. 1.9 hectare of Colombar wine grapes has been established next to the Winery on previously unplanted land. The first harvest is expected during the 2007 season.

### **SANDDRIFT NUWE BOERE**

This project consists of 1.7 hectare of wine grapes. The owner is Sanddrift Nuwe Boere BK and consists of three members, namely: Andries Francies, Arrie de Bruin and Andrew Kidelo and the property will get its water from the Osplaas Dam which will be completed by June 2007.

Meanwhile, Hex Valley Irrigation Board will provide water from their existing sources. During 2006 the group harvested their first grapes – 6.52 ton.

### **KLIPLAND SIYAZAMA Brdy & LA SERENE**

Siyazama means “new beginning” and the project was started in August 2006 with 8 members and Frans Hugo as mentor. It should be finalised by the end of this year.

6 table grape cultivars are being farmed on Klipland (23.9 hectare) and later

6 hectare of wine grapes will be planted on unused land on this farm.

The other farm, La Serene, is rented from the Breede River Municipality.

Here 5.6 hectare of medicinal herbs and, later, 9.6 hectare of wine grapes will be planted.

### **HOOGLAND**

During 2003, Pieter Naude, the owner of Denau Boerdery, formed the Denau Workers’ Trust consisting of 118 beneficiaries. In 2005 a company was formed trading as Hoogland Boerdery and the farm Kleinstraat, between De Doorns and Touwsriver, was bought by Denau Trust.

The two Trusts each now had a 50% share in Hoogland Boerdery. 24 hectare of table grapes has already been planted under netting and a further 14 is under development. The aim is to have 50 hectare developed by the year 2010.

### **AMANDELRIVER ESTATES**

The owner, Francois Jourdan Family Trust, restructured the business so that all the workers of Amandelriver now have a 30% share in the business. The transaction was financed through a private loan by the owner. The effective date of implementing was 1 July 2006. The shareholding structure is a ownership.

### **OSPLAAS**

This project currently consists of 8 hectare planted with various varieties of table grapes. The owner is Osplaas Brd Edms Bpk and there are 36 shareholders.

Water for the property will be obtained from the new Osplaas dam due for completion in June 2007. In the interim, water is provided by the Hex River Valley Irrigation Board from existing sources.

The first vines were planted during 2005 and the area under vines was increased to 8 hectare this year. A further 4 hectare is available for expansion.

#### **AM THOPS Brd BK**

Andr  Thops is the sole owner of the farm Olyfkloof (42 hectare) which he bought in 2004. Andr  has already been busy for 4 years cultivating olive trees on a large scale in a nursery and on Olyfkloof he is currently planting 6 hectare of olive trees and 1 hectare of Colombar wine grapes. Macadamia and Pecan nut trees as well as Jojoba have already been planted. In 2007 the nursery will be enlarged to allow for the cultivation of lavender, rosemary, hoodia and buchu.

#### **UITKOMS BOERDERY**

Uitkoms Boerdery was bought in 2006 by two commercial farmers, Boetie Kriel and Theuns Rabie, with the express purpose of providing Osplaas Boerdery with a 40 % shareholding. This provides immediate access to packing facilities for the Osplaas shareholders. Eventually 16 hectare will be under vines of which 2 hectare has already been planted in 2006.

#### **DE HOOP VINEYARDS**

The farm, De Hoop, was bought by De Villiers Graaff in 2005 in order to provide a meaningful empowerment project for workers who have been employed by the Graaff family for many years. A 60% shareholding was sold to 213 shareholders. These shareholders are the employees of the farms De Hoop, The Pines, and Naudeshof belonging to Mr Graaff as well as employees of the farm Zandhoek belonging to A J Reyneke, who is the other partner in The Pines. 35 hectare of table grapes with a further 23 hectare of vacant land available for development from 2007.

#### **LEEUEWKOPBOERDERY (EDMS) BPK**

The owner, H Viljoen Trust restructured the business so that all the workers of Leeuwkop now have a 30% share in the business. The transaction was financed through a private loan by the owner. The effective date of implementing was 1 November 2006. The shareholding structure is ownership.

New projects are submitted for BEE applications annually.

#### **ECONOMICAL GROWTH**

Surveys showed that the town's turnover (minus the inflation rate) showed a gradual increase of 1.71 % during 1991/92 – 1996/97.

De Doorns has a very centralized economy focusing on the agricultural sector as well as Agri related industries to a lesser degree.

#### **UNEMPLOYMENT**

Unfortunately these figures are not available. What we do know is that the majority employees are seasonally employed. Due to the grapes being harvested during the summer, it means that employees have no income during the long, cold winter season. They often leave to go back home or move on to the cities.

#### **ANNUAL INCOME (PER CAPITA)**

No data on this topic was available from the CWDM (Cape Winelands District Municipality).

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **• Telecommunication**

There are two centrals situated in the Valley, one at Orchard and one at De Doorns. Only Ekuphumleni (squatter camp section) recently has no access to private telephone lines. There are public telephones for their use. The Orchard Central has about ± 400 tenants, and the De Doorns Central 2 000. It still grows constantly.

### **• Water Systems**

The Hex River Valley has two sources, the Grootkloof & Roode Elsberg dams. From here water is pumped to the N1 pump station, filtered, chlorified and illuminated. This is used to rid the water of algae.

From here the water is pumped to 3 dams closer to town. In total it can hold 3½ mega liters of water, and then transferred to the homes. This water system does not include the Orchard area.

### **• Electrical Systems**

ESKOM provides 80 % of electricity used in the Hex River Valley. The other 20 % provided by the local municipality.

### **• Roads**

The N1 runs through the valley. The pass to TOUWSRIVER was recently upgraded. A local road runs through the farms in parallel with the N1, connecting at 5 points throughout the valley, with the N1 again.

## **POPULATION**

The population growth and average yearly percentage of the available census years (1970 – 1991) is shown in table 3.

According to official records of the De Doorns Municipality, the population of De Doorns is estimated at 6 084 with an annual growth rate of 4.53 %.

The strong growth rate in 1991 – 1997 was due to a big influx of people to the Ekuphumleni and Hassie Square informal settlements. The present Black community is estimated at about 1 500 and represent 24.7 % of the total population.

According to the 2001 demographic information census the total of the Hex River Valley's population was 26 455 (ward 2-7419; ward 3-5697; ward 4-5755; ward 5-7584). Unfortunately the age and sexual divisions are not available.

## **CLIMATE**

De Doorns has a moderate climate with no extremes of various elements to be experienced here. As measured at the Orchard rainfall station nr.43/239, the valley has an average rainfall is 337 mm per year. The dominating wind directions during the summer is south to south east, while in winter times the north west brings rain. Due to the topography there is quite a variation in temperatures with an average of 28°C in summer and 17°C in winter.

## **ECOLOGY**

The blue-coloured range is the Hex River Mountain range, also known as the Matroosberg Mountain. It consists of Table Mountain sandstone. The highest peak above sealevel: 2249m. At an angle of 30° it comes down and comes out on the other side of the valley, known as the Quado Mountain. Therefore the formation is exactly the same rock layers on both sides. This sandstone erodes into the sediments of white rocks and sand you get in the Valley and on its riverbeds.

This ground's acid content is very high due to the content of very little minerals. It is almost clean sand in the form of silica, little iron and manganese



## **FAUNA & FLORA**

The vegetation on these grounds also contains high acid levels. These plants are known as *Fynbos* (ec. *Proteas*, *Heide*). On the upper side (WSW) of the valley you get karoo-like mountains known as the *Bokkeveld-Skalie* formation. This lies on top of the Table Mountain Sandstone. This erodes to a brown clayish ground and is very fertile. Contains a lot of minerals and other elements.

The vegetation on these grounds is a Karoo succulent. There is about 600 plant species in this plain. This plain is very sensitive. When it burns or gets ploughed it takes 30 to 40 years to recover completely. The reason for this very dry area is the fact that the rainfall is very low ( $\pm 200$  mm per year). Well-known plants you'll see in this area are the *Botterboom* and a few kinds of *Plakkies* (eg. Pig's Ears).

These plants loose their leaves in summertime, not like other trees and vineyards during winter. The reason therefore is to protect themselves against the heat and drought during summer. There are only 4 kinds of shrubs in this field, eg. the very typical *Gwarrie* bush, which generates a black, berry that baboons and Starlings are very fond of.

You can still see Duikers, Klipspringers, grey Ribbokke that retained throughout the years. There is a few groups of eagles, Rooibors *Jakkalsvoël*, *Muisvoëls*, *Witgat Spreeus*, *Jangroentjies*, *Spekvretertjies*, etc.



**APPENDIX 1:** Try and see under which categories you can identify some of our local tourism facilities.

- **NATURE BASED HOLIDAYS**

- Trails Adventure
- Inland water adventure (Canoeing, fishing, kloofing)
- Bird watching
- Game / Nature Reserves
- Snow / Photography Tourism

- **AGRI TOURISM**

- Fruit picking & tasting
- Educational Farm Tours
- Gourmet
- Cheesemaking
- Olives
- Farmstays

- **WEDDING TOURISM**

- Venues: Hen / Bachelor parties, the ceremony, photography
- Ministers & Officiates
- Invitations
- Caterers
- Wine
- Décor
- Entertainment
- Beautician & Hair stylist
- Photographer & Videographer
- Accommodation
- Transportation
- Event Personnel Contractors
- Clean Up services
- Honeymoon packages

- **WINE TOURISM**

- **SHORT HOLIDAY BREAKS**

- Romantic weekends

- **EVENTS** (Sport / Non-sport)

- School sport events
- Golf
- Bowling
- Tennis
- Cycling
- Athletic
- Rugby
- Geo-catching

- **SPORT TOURISM**

- Golf Holidays
- Cycle Tourism
- Geo-catching



• **CULTURAL / HISTORICAL / HERITAGE TOURS**

- Rock Art
- Traditional food & drink
- Architecture
- Township Tours
- Language – particularly Afrikaans
- Museums & monuments

• **CAMPING, BACKPACKING & YOUTH TRAVEL**

• **BUSINESS TOURISM**

- Conferencing

