

STANFORD

stay + explore



The picturesque village of Stanford is one of the Cape's best kept secrets ...



Historic places, peaceful scenic cruising, shopping, restaurants, local food and wine, country strolls, lifestyle markets, hiking trails, aerial whale-watching, winemaking, hiking, horse-riding, birding and cycling.



028 341 0340

www.stanfordtourism.co.za • ask@stanfordinfo.co.za
13 Queen Victoria Street

Stanford Tourism

visitstanford

visitstanford

Stanford Tourism
The Stanford Association
of Tourism and Business

cape whale coast
Hangklip-Kleinmond | Hermanus | Stanford | Gansbaai

Welcome to Stanford!



The picturesque village of Stanford is one of the Cape's best kept secrets. Just two hours from Cape Town, it is a favourite weekend getaway and the ideal base from which to explore the Cape Whale Coast and entire Overberg region. The village and its surrounds radiate natural beauty and offer a wide range of activities. Experience a river boat cruise or a slow paddle up the Klein River soaking up the magical landscapes and abundant birdlife, shop for antiques, art and collectables, or explore unforgettable country restaurants. Here, life is slower than in the city, so it's a perfect place to unwind.



Rest and restore

Accommodation choices range from 5-star lodges to family-run B&Bs, guest farms, self-catering cottages and holiday homes. Enjoy the tranquil surroundings of rural and river retreats in the village and on nearby farms – all combine traditional comfort with contemporary design. Many of the self-catering accommodation establishments are family and pet-friendly.

Stanford Culinary

Nestled in the Overberg between Hermanus and Gansbaai, Stanford is a hub for the artisanal food experience. It's an ideal country escape, from which to explore the majestic outdoors before feasting on hearty seasonal dishes, local cheeses and cool climate wines, fynbos-infused gin, Grappa and craft beer. Stanford's farm-to-table movement is growing, with weekly village markets and impressive menus at local restaurant and neighbouring estates.



Stanford is fortunate to have attracted many green-fingered folk which means an abundance of fresh, locally grown produce. Grab some just-harvested veggies or wood-fired breads, homemade tarts, pies and more. The monthly Stanford Sunset Market boasts vendors from both Stanford and surrounds and is a fun evening out on the historic market square with live music, great food and local beverages. The occasional food forage and sustainability workshops are not to be missed by those interested in emerging themselves in the total self-sufficiency experience.



the Klein River



The Klein River meanders through Stanford and is home to an abundance of fauna and flora. It offers one of the most beautiful stretches of flat water river paddling in South Africa. The river invites a variety of activities; boat trips, kayak and canoe hire, swimming, picnic spots and birdwatching along the Wandelpad walking trail. This beautiful stretch of river leads to a magnificent estuary, providing a most appealing retreat from the nearby beaches.

Country Weddings

With a choice of elegant or rustic venues, fabulous food, idyllic settings and superb accommodation, it's no wonder that Stanford makes a romantic wedding destination. We encourage you to explore our beautiful venue options, and fall in love!



Stanford wine route



Stanford's varied soils enable production of a variety of wines ranging from vibrant whites to elegant reds that lean towards the old classic styles. Come and taste our award-winning wines.

Heritage



Stanford was developed on a portion of a prosperous farming settlement, 'De Kleine Riviers Valey'. Today, the tree-lined streets are dotted with historical buildings that bear testimony to a significant British influence and marks Stanford as the third most historically important village in the Western Cape. Stanford is very proud of its Cape Victorian and Edwardian architectural heritage. The pristine Market Square dates back to 1785 while the original farmhouse is one of the oldest houses in the Overberg. The village exudes a charm of yesteryear, and the central core of Stanford was awarded heritage status in 1995.



EVENTS

FEB	Stanford MTB Tour
MAY	Stanford River Festival
MAY	Stanford Culinary
JUNE	Hops at the Hills
JUNE	Penguin Plunge
SEPT	Heritage Month
SEPT	Nose to Tail Trail
SEPT	Stanford Arts Festival
NOV	Stanford Stumble
NOV	Toy Run® Overberg
DEC	Stanford Boxing Day Cricket

country markets

- **SUNSET MARKET:** Last Friday of the month 18:00 – 20:00. Closed June – August
- **SATURDAY MORNING MARKET:** Every week 09:00 – 12:00
- **FARMER'S MARKET AT GRAZE:** Wednesdays 09:00 – 12:00

things to do ...

- **Country market** – Stanford boasts its own morning markets, every Wednesday and Saturday all year round, with produce fresh from farmers, crafters and hobbyists.
- **Klein River** – Group river cruises, personalised boat trips, canoe and kayak rentals or bring your own.
- **Wandelpad/ river trail** – Stroll along the Klein River whilst bird watching, or choose a picnic spot with fresh deli goods and wines from the region.
- **Rock Art:** Take a walk on Phillipskop Mountain Reserve to the cave to see the Khoes San rock art, and enjoy a dip at the waterfall.
- **Horse Trails** – Scenic one- or multi-day horse trails and outrides.
- **Birding** – Stanford has a wide variety of habitats right on its doorstep. Be sure to visit the Willem Appel Dam bird hide, Wandelpad and outlying areas.
- **Biking** – Safe family fun around the village and along the river banks, or mountain biking and quad biking on various farms in the area.

- **Heritage** – “Historical Stanford on foot” walking booklets are available in the Tourism Office. Please ask about the guided tour option. Stanford is an architectural treasure chest and is regarded as one of South Africa’s best-preserved villages.
- **Cheese Farm** – Enjoy a delicious picnic while the children take pleasure in the extensive playground or pet and feed the many farm animals.
- **Flight of the Giants** – Breathtaking aerial whale watching flights.
- **Eat & Drink** – Stanford’s food scene is exciting. Explore unforgettable country restaurants and pubs.
- **Extreme Sports** – Book a shark cage diving excursion in Gansbaai, just 20 minutes drive from Stanford.
- **Stanford Wine Route** – An excellent self-drive outing where award-winning wines can be enjoyed slowly.
- **Art & Collectables** – For lasting memories take home local artwork or treat yourself at some real old-timer style antique and bric-a-brac shops.
- **Day Trips** – to Cape Agulhas, De Hoop Nature Reserve, Napier, Bredasdorp, Arniston, Elim and Baardskeerdersbos.
- **Big Cat Sanctuary** – Visit Panthera Africa and see the beautiful big cats: lions, leopards, tigers and caracals.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Stanford was awarded ‘Best Village Destination’ in 2012.
- Stanford was established in 1856.
- The heart of Stanford surrounding the market square was proclaimed a South African Heritage area in 1995.
- Although the Klein River is 80 km long, it is the river with the shortest distance between its origin and mouth in the world (5 km as the crow flies)!
- The Klein River Estuary, also referred to as ‘Kleinriversvlei’, is about 10 kilometres long and just over 2 kilometres wide at its widest point.
- Another distinguishing feature of Stanford is the ‘leiwater’ system. These are water furrows that crisscross the village and are used for garden irrigation.
- Stanford has a cheese named after it! Inspired during a study tour in France, a cheese maker developed this magnificent hard cheese and named it after our village. It is manufactured from fresh milk supplied by 3 local dairy farmers.
- Almost 200 bird species can be found in and around Stanford. Of the 68 endemic bird species in South Africa, 30 occur within close proximity of Stanford.

