

Stellenbosch – 28 May 2021 – South Africa

We are back on the road but without the 4Runner. We packed last night, had breakfast, packed the rental car and began our drive to Franschhoek with a walking tour stop scheduled for Stellenbosch and a lunch afterwards.

Other than the light rain it appeared to be a good day – don't you hate optimistic people.

OK -- light rain, a rental car that is low to the ground rather than our high 4Runner, first time driving in South Africa and my memory has blanked out several other issues that may have had led me to be slightly stressed. But I had Nancy, my navigator and entertainment director, in the righthand seat so let's get on the road.

I don't remember any wrong turns. For the most part the highway driving was easy and the highway was well signed. The highway was well maintained, hell I wish I-20 in Texas was as well maintained as the highway out of Cape Town.



My first photograph in Stellenbosch – cow heads. Made me feel at home.

Maybe we made one or two wrong turns, but it didn't take us too long to find downtown Stellenbosch and most importantly a parking space – a head in parking space!

We paid the city parking attendant and began walking towards *Stellenbosch on Foot*. As you probably guessed from the name it was a company that provides walking tours. Drops of rain were falling but I not going to say it was raining but more like a drizzle.



No customers because: (a) Covid or (b) rain – it was the rain because when we returned in an hour about half the tables had people.

Stellenbosch on Foot was an easy find with Google Maps. Went inside and found it was the local tourism office. The manager came out and greeted us and then she got on the phone and called a guide for us. Ten minutes later we were learning all about Stellenbosch.



Tsonga is a leather shoe and clothing store. I get it: the naked guy needs clothes and footwear.

Stellenbosch was founded in 1878 and the current population is roughly 180,000 people which I have to say is at least a 100,000 more than I would have guessed. It's a university town and felt very comfortable.



It was a pretty town even at the beginning of winter and with a light rain.

Stellenbosch is South Africa's second oldest town being founded in 1679. Today it's about an hour and 45 minutes drive from Cape Town. The architecture is a mixture of Cape Dutch, Georgian, Victorian, and Regency.



One of four buildings making up the Stellenbosch Museum. This was the only one open and each is an original built house dating back to the 1700's and furnished with period furniture.



This building was next door and across the street from the Museum. Note the thatched roof and curving window/roof projection above the door. A definition of Cape Dutch architecture.



This is the V.O.C. Arsenal or “the powder house”. Today it holds historic weapons. It was closed and we have seen more than our fair share of historic weapons.



A church on our way back to the tourism office.



One of the streets we walked.

Following our two-hour walking tour, we stopped for a cup of coffee that got us out of the drizzle and chairs to rest our legs. I knew to expect rain today since the forecast before we went to bed the night before was predicting an 80% chance of rain. However, our next stop was to be lunch at a winery outside of Stellenbosch going toward Franschhoek. The winery is located at the top of Helshoogte Pass overlooking the valley below. Damn, a private party and no tables for individual parties. On to Franschhoek.

As much as we enjoyed Stellenbosch, I fell in love with Franschhoek. However, it would be great if I could learn to pronounce Franschhoek.