

Franschoek, South-Africa



Sonoma, California





# Sonoma



Sonoma is a city located in Sonoma County in Northern California, USA. It is known for its rich history, picturesque vineyards, and world-class wineries. The city is surrounded by rolling hills and fertile valleys, making it a prime location for wine production and agriculture. Sonoma has a charming downtown area with historic buildings, boutique shops, art galleries, and farm-to-table restaurants.

In addition to its wine country charm, Sonoma also boasts a vibrant arts and cultural scene, with museums, theaters, and annual events that celebrate the local community and heritage. The city is home to the Sonoma Plaza, a National Historic Landmark that serves as the heart of the community and features a central park, historic buildings, and a variety of shops and restaurants.

Sonoma is a popular destination for wine enthusiasts, foodies, and outdoor enthusiasts alike, offering a mix of wine tasting opportunities, culinary experiences, and outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, biking, and hot air ballooning. With its laid-back atmosphere, beautiful scenery, and abundance of attractions, Sonoma is a must-visit destination for those looking to experience the best of Northern California's wine country.

# Franschoek



Franschoek is a picturesque town located in the Western Cape province of South Africa (45 miles from Capetown). Known as the "Food and Wine Capital" of the country, Franschoek is surrounded by stunning vineyards, lush valleys, and majestic mountains. The town has a rich history dating back to the 17th century when French Huguenot settlers first arrived in the region, bringing with them their winemaking expertise and culinary traditions.

Today, Franschoek is renowned for its world-class wineries, gourmet restaurants, and charming boutiques. The town's main street is lined with historic Cape Dutch architecture, showcasing a blend of French and South African influences. Visitors can explore the town's art galleries, museums, and markets to experience the vibrant cultural scene.

In addition to its culinary delights, Franschoek offers a range of outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and horseback riding, allowing visitors to explore the natural beauty of the surrounding area. The town also hosts annual events and festivals celebrating wine, food, and art, drawing visitors from around the world.

# Sister City relationships can include ...

1. Cultural exchange: Sister city programs facilitate cultural exchanges such as art exhibitions, music performances, and language classes to promote understanding and appreciation of different cultures.
2. Economic development: Collaborations in business and trade can create opportunities for economic development and mutual growth in industries such as tourism, technology, and agriculture.
3. Educational opportunities: Sister city partnerships often involve student exchanges, internships, and academic collaborations that provide unique learning experiences for students and educators.
4. Humanitarian aid: Sister cities may collaborate on humanitarian projects, disaster relief efforts, and community development initiatives to address shared challenges and promote global solidarity.

Diplomatic ties: Sister city relationships can enhance international diplomacy and promote peaceful relations between countries by fostering people-to-people connections and building trust between communities.



# If there is appetite on both sides – Lets make it happen!

Franschoek, South-Africa



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# Next steps:



**SisterCities**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Connect Globally. Thrive locally.

- Till July15
  - Check the appetite with Franschoek
    - We have the contacts (will also check back in with Ruth McCourt)
  - Check the appetite with Sonoma Mayor
    - Stephanie has the contacts
- Till end August
  - Form a committee led by Gail Louie in Sonoma
  - Form a committee with a clear owner in Franschoek
- Beginning September
  - Jointly prepare a short and mid term Plan that then gets presented to both Mayors for sign off
  - Build on existing “best practices” (Sonoma has 7 sister cities)
- In Q42024
  - Make it happen!