

Geographical Orientation

Publications/Legislation

[Back to Geographical Orientation](#)
[Garden Route/Klein Karoo District Municipality](#)
[Map](#)

Zoar - 5 669,1942ha

Zoar is situated approximately 22 kilometres from Ladismith, on the road leading to Calitzdorp and Oudtshoorn. The missionary station started when two farmers, JL and GC Nel handed the farm Elandsfontein to the government for missionary work (The South African Missionary Society) on 27 March 1817, with the approval of the Governor. It was named after Zoar on the Red Sea, mentioned in the Bible. The name first meant 'insignificant', but when Lot fled thither from Sodom, it acquired the meaning of 'refuge', 'haven'. The Berlin Missionary Society started the work and the first inhabitants were slaves and other coloureds from places like Cape Town, Zuurbraak and Genadendal. In 1822 the Missionaries informed the Governor that the land allocated was only grazing land and a further portion of land suitable for gardening was allocated. On 15 January 1885 the land was formerly transferred to the Berliner Missionary Society, to be held in trust for the local inhabitants.

The Dutch Reformed Church took over the missionary in 1895 and the government added two more portions of land (the farm Vlugt on 31 October 1895 and the farm Koes Karoo on 28 January 1899). Board area proclaimed by Proclamation No 198 of 1914.

The farm **Amalienstein**, adjacent to the Board area, also started as a Berlin Missionary Society. The first church service in the church building was held on 17 September 1853. Land was allocated to it for missionary work by Deeds of Grant in 1887 and 1888. The Berlin Missionary Society then sold the land to DR Roux and JH Hofmeyer in November 1937, with a 99 year lease agreement registered in favour of the Berlin Missionary Society in respect of the Graveyard, school site, Teacher's residence, Church site and land adjoining the church site. Daniël Hofmeyer sold the farm on 12 July 1986 to the state, with the lease agreement included, to be held in trust for the community of Zoar.



The main street



Vegetable gardens in Zoar



The provincial road past Zoar



A low cost housing project for Zoar on the Amalienstein farm

Amalienstein



The Amalienstein farmstead



Amalienstein Information Centre



A road to the church on the Amalienstein farm



The farmworkers's houses