

AMAZING MUSEUMS



Yours to Explore

Eastern Cape
PARKS & TOURISM AGENCY

EASTERN CAPE MUSEUM LISTING

COVID-19 - Temporary closure or reduced hours may be in effect with regards to many of the Museums listed below.

STEVE BIKO MUSEUM

<http://www.sbf.org.za/home/museum/>

In developing the Museum, the Steve Biko Foundation's vision of taking the nation through a journey of remembrance and discovery is realised. The bricks and mortar of the history now remembered, the museum is more than a tourist attraction, it is a rich resource that supports the work of the arts and culture, education and research and policy units to name a few. Through dynamic inter-departmental activity, the museum has become a site of learning and performance, literally coming alive with music, dance and creative interpretations of South African history.

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 09h00 to 17h00

Saturday: 09h00 to 13h00

Sunday: By appointment

Tel: +27 (0) 43 605 6700

AMATHOLE MUSEUM

<https://www.sa-venues.com/things-to-do/easterncape/amathole-museum/>

If you want to find out about Huberta the Hippo, the various Xhosa kings, why Pondo women smoke with longer-stemmed pipes than Pondo men, how British settlers lived here in the 1800s and what an aardvark looks like up close, then come to the Amathole Museum in King William's Town.

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 08h00 to 16h00

Saturdays: 09h00 to 13h00

Sundays and public holidays: by appointment only

Tel: +27 (0) 43 642 4506

FS MALAN MUSEUM

<http://www.ufh.ac.za/SupportServices/Pages/MuseumsGalleries.aspx>

The FS Malan Museum features collections of beadwork, wooden sculptures and costumes.

Opening hours:

Monday -Friday: 09h00 to 13h00; 14h00 to 17h00

After hours by appointment

Tel: +27 (0) 40 602 2277

CATA COMMUNITY MUSEUM

<https://www.stutterheimtourism.co.za/activities/53-cata-community-museum>

The village of Cata is nestled in a beautiful crescent in the Amathole Mountains, approximately 50km from Stutterheim. At the heart of the village stands the community museum, unique in South Africa that it is the only museum that tells the story of rural land dispossession and the community's successful struggle for restitution. Inside visitors begin their 'Cata experience' in the indoor part of the museum, where they will find exhibits of world class standard. Outside is a 20km guided walk along a professionally 'cut' heritage trail, featuring information boards and a toposcope. The trail brings one face to face with the devastation of forced removal.

Please make an appointment to visit.

Mobile: +27 (0) 72 568 7926.

STATIONARY ENGINE MUSEUM

<https://showme.co.za/tourism/stutterheim-stationary-engine-museum-eastern-cape/>

The Stutterheim Engine Museum is thought to have one of the largest and most comprehensive collection of restored stationary engines, all in mint running condition, in the world. The oldest gem is a Mietz & Weitz engine dating back to 1905. Forgotten names like Ruston Hornsby, Wholesly, Bamford, Lister and Massey Harris are all there, saved from a scrap yard where they would have been crushed and melted down to be lost forever. The development and advancement of technology can be followed in the engines on display, some dating back almost a century to the very recent, world class, advanced Mercedes C200 Kompressor engine.

Opening hours:

08h30 to 12h30 Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Curator: Tom Cole

Tel: +27 (0)43 683 2079 (business hours please)

QUEENSTOWN AND FRONTIER MUSEUM

<https://www.queenstown.co.za/monuments.html>

The Queenstown and Frontier Museum is housed in a national monument. Its main focus is on the history of Queenstown and surrounding districts and it includes a large telephone and medical equipment collection and some natural history.

Opening Hours

Mon-Fri: 08h00 to 12h45; 14h00 to 16h00

Weekends: on request

Tel: +27 (0)45 839 5860

ROCK ART CENTRE AND VINTAGE VEHICLE MUSEUM

<http://oldthomasriver.co.za/>

For those who are interested in old vehicles and car memorabilia, Thomas River is a place to lose yourself in the wonder and grandeur of travel in the past. Their collections are extensive and range over many, many years.

Tel: +27 (0)45 843 1504

STERKSTROOM MUSEUM

<https://www.facebook.com/Sterkstroom-Museum-1548633878775786/>

The Sterkstroom Museum is an old-fashioned shop with a collection of crockery, household items, kitchenware and butter making tools. It also features the history of Sterkstroom and an agricultural exhibition.

Opening Hours

Summer: Mon-Fri: 08h00 to 16h00

Winter: Mon-Fri: 08h30 to 16h30

Sat: by appointment

Tel: 045 966 0188

BURGERSDORP MUSEUM COMPLEX

<https://www.nightjartravel.com/cultural/burgersdorp-museum-complex>

Rich in historical buildings, Burgersdorp has 10 national monuments located in one museum complex. The monuments range from the old, Victorian-style Reformed Church Parsonage to a blockhouse, used by the British as part of their defense in the second Anglo-Boer War.

Tel: +27 (0)51 653 1738

ALIWAL NORTH MUSEUM COMPLEX

<https://www.sa-venues.com/things-to-do/easterncape/aliwal-north-museum/>

The Kerkplein Museum, a component of the Aliwal North Museums Complex, is housed in the old Dutch Reformed Church and comprises an interior display of a street scene with shops and houses and an outdoor display of farm implements.

Opening Hours:

Monday -Saturday: 09h00 to 12h00

Tel: +27 (0)82 672 2739

LADY GREY MUSEUM

<https://www.facebook.com/ladygreymuseum>

The Lady Grey Museum is situated in a Victorian building which housed the Poor School between 1898 and 1914. Its exhibits focus on celebrities such as Athol Fugard and Tiro Vorster who have roots in the Middelburg.

Viewing by appointment

Tel: +27 (0)51 603 1114

BARKLEY EAST MUSEUM

<https://www.sa-venues.com/things-to-do/easterncape/barly-east-museum/>

Visitors to the Barkly East Museum will be introduced to the history of the Barkly East area and to the furniture, household items and sheep and cattle farming implements once prevalent there. The museum also has a collection of uniforms from the Anglo-Boer War and both World Wars I and II.

Opening Hours:Monday-Friday: 09h00 to 12h00;

15h00 to 16h30

Tel: +27 (0)45 971 0063

ANDERSON MUSEUM

<https://www.facebook.com/dordrechtmuseum/>

The Anderson Museum displays turn-of-the century furniture and clothing, rock art, agriculture and family trees.

Opening Hours:

Monday -Friday: 09h00 to 12h00

Tel: +27 (0)45 943 1017

MATATIELE MUSEUM

<http://www.sa-venues.com/things-to-do/kwazulunatal/matatiele-museum/>

Matatiele is a beautiful town in the Eastern Cape province filled with history and to show it off at its best is the Matatiele Museum. Originally a Dutch Reformed Church, this sandstone building now houses a vast collection of interesting items and relics such as photos of Matatiele as it developed into the beautiful place it is today, antique household objects, old post boxes and a collection of fossils. While here you can gather information on the history of the town and its neighbouring areas as well as that of the Xhosa, Sotho, San and Zulu cultures. This magnificent building which previously had many uses, is now a provincial heritage site and national monument, and is well worth a visit.

Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday from 09h00 to 12h00 and 14h00 to 16h00

Tel: +27 (0)39 737 3287

NELSON MANDELA MUSEUM

<http://www.nelsonmandelamuseum.org.za/>

The Nelson Mandela Museum is more than a place; it is an experience that allows visitors to follow the footprints of a man whose long walk to freedom began in the foothills that rise from the banks of the Mbashe River. Here are the exhibitions that celebrate his life and his journey including Gift to the Nation that showcases the gifts he has received from the people, institutions and governments around the world, and a collection of images and artefacts that illustrate and illuminate his life. The Nelson Mandela Museum is situated on the N2 highway, and is the gateway to the Wild Coast. It offers a memorable cultural experience that gives insight into the life of Nelson Mandela, with guided tours and a heritage trail that follows in his footsteps.

Opening Hours:

Monday – Sunday from 09h00 to 16h00 except for Good Friday and workers day on 1st May.

HAZEL JEFFRIES SHELL MUSEUM

<http://www.keimouth.co.za/attractions/hazel-jefferies-shell-museum.htm>

The Hazel Jefferies Shell Museum has hundreds of varieties of shells on display and is considered to be amongst the best in South Africa. It is located at the Municipal offices in Kei Mouth near the four-way stop in the Main Road.

Opening hours:

Monday - Friday: 07h00 to 16h00

Saturdays: 09h00 to 11h00

Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays

MORGANVILLE MOTORCYCLE MUSEUM

<http://www.morganbayhotel.co.za/activities/>

Approaching the turn off to Morgan Bay you will see a Corvair 880 passenger jet on the side of the road. Believed to be one of only two such aircraft in the World (the other at Graceland), it carried musical icons such as the Rolling Stones, Barbara Streisand, John Denver and The Who. Former Eastern Cape Finance MEC, and self confessed hoarder, Billy Nel's private museum has been growing in fame ever since he parked the huge jet in his back yard. The museum houses over 200 motorcycles including a rare Yamaha GTS1000A, featuring a forkless front suspension. Other attractions at the museum include London buses, collections of old vinyl records, early pianos and telephones, historic agricultural equipment such as a mielie grinder, old typewriters, petrol tanks and ox wagons. Nel only opens the museum a few times a year, such as during the Footprints Festival and Bulldog Rally, and entry fees go to charity.

EAST LONDON MUSEUM, CALGARY TRANSPORT MUSEUM AND GATELY HOUSE

<http://www.elmuseum.za.org/>

Established in 1921 and considered to be one of the most interesting natural and cultural history museums in the country, the East London Museum features a number of fine exhibits, including the type specimen of the coelacanth, a fish previously believed to have become extinct some 80 million years ago, together with an extensive collection of beadwork relating to the Xhosa-speaking people.

Opening hours:

Monday - Thursday 09h30 to 16h30

Friday 9h30 – 16h00

Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays Closed

Tel : +27 (0)43 743 0686

CALGARY TRANSPORT MUSEUM

The Calgary Transport Museum, a satellite of the East London Museum, features a collection of carts, wagons and handcarts from the Border region, acquired and restored by the late Robin Wells. Also, on show is a gypsy caravan, a tack room and a wheelwright's workshop and forge.

Opening hours:

Monday -Sunday: 09h00 to 16h00

Closed: Good Friday and Christmas Day

Tel: +27 (0)43 730 7244

BATHURST AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

<https://bathurstmuseum.co.za/>

Following the motto of 'today's machinery is tomorrow's history', the Bathurst Agricultural Museum was established in 1970 as a home for old farming implements. What began as a 30-item display has now developed into a remarkable museum with more than 1 300 objects. Ox wagons, steam engines, old tractors, ostrich incubators and dairy utensils are but a few farming artefacts to be seen.

Opening hours:

Monday to Saturday 09h00 to 16h00

Sunday 15h00 to 16h00 or by appointment

Tel: +27 (0)46 624 5421

KOWIE HISTORY MUSEUM

<https://www.kowiemuseum.co.za/>

The Kowie History Museum concentrates on local social history with an emphasis on the period of 1820-89. The displays include the Briseis (wrecked 1859), the Xhosa, and marine shells.

Opening hours:

Tuesday-Saturday: 10h00 to 13h00

Tel: +27 (0)46 624 4713

SUKUME MUSEUM AND XHOSA CULTURE CENTRE

http://www.nmbt.co.za/search/1/things_to_see_and_do/historical/museums

Sukume Museum and Xhosa Culture Centre displays a brief history of Port Elizabeth and Gqebera (Walmer Township) and an insight into the Xhosa culture, beliefs and the Apartheid Era. Sukume Museum and Xhosa Culture Centre aims to uplift as well as to educate. They provide an interesting view of Xhosa culture such as what lobola (dowry) entails, as well as explanations of some Xhosa beliefs.

Contact Tourism Call Centre on

+27 (0)41 582 2575

NO. 7 CASTLE HILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

http://www.nmbt.co.za/search/1/things_to_see_and_do/historical/museums

No. 7 Castle Hill was completed in 1825 and is one of the oldest surviving Settler cottages in Port Elizabeth. Following renovations, No. 7 Castle Hill was opened as a museum in 1965. The interior presents a picture of domestic life as enjoyed by an English middle-class family in mid-19th century Port Elizabeth.

Opening hours:

Monday to Thursday :10h00 to 16h30

Friday :10h00 to 16h00.

Closed from 13h00 – 14h00 on all days

OLD RAILWAY STATION MUSEUM

http://www.nmbt.co.za/search/1/things_to_see_and_do/historical/museums

Built on Market Street in the year of the opening of the railway from Port Elizabeth, it is reputed to be one of the oldest railway stations in South Africa. At this quaint museum, two vintage locomotives, a variety of coaches, period furniture and equipment capture the atmosphere of the early days of steam. The building houses a residence, waiting room and tea-room in addition to the station office.

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Thursday :10h00 to 13h00 and 14h00 to 15h30

NELSON MANDELA METROPOLITAN ART MUSEUM

http://www.nmbt.co.za/search/1/things_to_see_and_do/historical/museums

The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum is situated at the entrance to St George's Park in Park Drive, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The Museum, formerly the King George VI Art Gallery, was opened on 22 June 1956 and was renamed in December 2002. The collections are housed in two buildings framing the entrance to St George's Park. The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum's collections consist of South African art (particularly that of the Eastern Cape), British art, international printmaking and Oriental art (including Indian miniatures and Chinese textiles). These are supplemented by an active programme of temporary exhibitions.

Opening hours:

Monday -Friday : 09h00 to 18h00 (closed Tuesday mornings)

Saturdays and Sundays : 13h00 to 17h00

Public holidays :14h00 to 17h00

First Sunday of the month :09h00 to 14h00

CUYLER MANOR MUSEUM

http://www.nmbt.co.za/search/1/things_to_see_and_do/historical/museums

The Cuyler Manor Museum forms part of the Uitenhage Museum and is a Cape Dutch style house that has been brought back to life, showing off period furniture and giving visitors the illusion of stepping back in time. The homestead/ farm outside consists of an old mill and allows visitors to see and learn more about Angora goats, weaving, spinning. There is a lovely herb garden and other farm animals which the kids are instantly attracted to. Here you can learn more about traditional ways of making candles and soaps and gives you an insight into what life was like for the locals in previous years.

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday: 10h00 to 13h00 and 14h00 to 16h30

Tel: +27 (0)41 992 2063

DROSTDY MUSEUM

http://www.nmbt.co.za/search/1/things_to_see_and_do/historical/museums

Part of the Uitenhage Museum, the Drostdy Africana Museum exhibits stages of growth for the city, from buildings, furniture, appliances, clothing and so much more. Take a trip through time and see just how much things have changed in the Eastern Cape. There is lots to learn and so many fascinating artifacts to see, it's definitely well worth the visit. This is a great outing for families or for educational school trips.

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday: 10h00 to 13h00 and 14h00 to 16h30

Tel: +27 (0)41 992 2063

DESPATCH MUSEUM

http://www.nmbt.co.za/search/1/things_to_see_and_do/historical/museums

The Despatch Museum is an interesting museum brimming with history and a wide variety of it at that. The first thing you will notice is the large Stegasaurus, a model made to scale, of which the original is at Bayworld in Port Elizabeth. The dinosaur's remains were found in the town around the 1900's. Here you can also see examples of the town's development, including models of red brick chimneys crafted by the town's engineer and displays of original brick made in the town itself. Sport memorabilia from some famous names such as Adri Geldenhuys, Rudi Koertzen and some items from the Springboks and South African cricket team are exhibited here. There is an awful lot to discover at the quaint museum and much to see and learn within this small town.

Opening hours:

Tuesdays and Saturdays: 09h00 to 12h00

Thursdays: 14h00 to 17h00

Tel: +27 (0)41 933 3177

HISTORY MUSEUM

<http://www.am.org.za/history>

Exhibits in the History Museum, formerly the 1820 Settlers Memorial Museum, focuses on the history and lifestyles of the people of the Eastern Cape from the year 1710 to 1910.

Opening Hours:

Monday -Friday: 09h00 to 13h00; 14h00 to 17h00

Weekend: 14h00 to 17h00 except Christmas Day and Good Friday

Tel: +27 (0)46 622 2312

VW AUTOPAVILION

<http://www.autopavilion.co.za/>

The Autopavilion Volkswagen Group South Africa's ultra-modern Expo and Heritage Centre -have been receiving around 3 000 visitors a month since their opening in March 2004, making it a most popular tourist attraction. It is situated at the factory's main entrance at 103 Algoa Road, Uitenhage, some 35 km from Port Elizabeth (P.E.) just off the Graaff-Reinet highway. The entrance fee is R10.00 for adults and R5.00 for children under 16 years and pensioners. There are free guided factory tours lasting two hours and starts every weekday morning at 09h00, the tour must be booked well in advance and can only accommodate 40 people. If the group is bigger or demand is big enough, a second tour will be arranged at 12h00 if possible. No cameras are allowed in the factory and closed shoes must be worn. No children under the age of 12 years are allowed in the factory. This tour also ends in the AutoPavilion museum at no charge where children (and cameras) are welcome. Visitors usually spend between 30 and 45 minutes in the AutoPavilion. There are also vending machines and the building is wheelchair compliant.

Opening Hours:

Weekdays :08h30 to 16h00.

First Saturday of each month from 10h00 to 13h00 only.

Closed all other week-ends and public holidays.

Tel: +27 (0)41 994 5941/3

FORT SELWYN

<http://www.am.org.za/fort-selwyn>

Fort Selwyn was built in the shape of a seven-pointed star, enabling the maximum number of men and guns to fire from the walls. It houses displays of weapons and portable furniture that were used by British officers.

Opening hours:

Open by appointment

Tel: +27 (0)46 622 2312

NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM

<http://www.am.org.za/natural-science>

The Natural Sciences Museum dates back to 1855 and is the second-oldest museum in the country. It exhibits the first dinosaur discovery in South Africa, a working Foucault pendulum, an Egyptian mummy, birds, mammals, shells, and a water gallery.

Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday: 09h00 to 13h00; 14h00 to 17h00

Weekends: 14h00 to 17h00

Closed: Good Friday and Christmas Day

Tel: +27 (0)46 622 2312

OBSERVATORY MUSEUM

<http://www.am.org.za/observatory>

The Observatory Museum, housed in a 19th century jeweller's shop and family home, depicts the lifestyle of a well-to-do Victorian family. It is home to the only genuine Victorian camera obscura in the southern hemisphere. Operating in a dark room, it shows Grahamstown as a miniature moving picture house.

Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday: 09h30 to 13h00; 14h00 to 17h00

Saturday: 09h00 to 13h00

Closed: Good Friday and Christmas Day

Tel: +27 (0)46 622 2312

PROVOST PRISON

<http://www.am.org.za/provost>

The Provost Prison was built in 1835 to house military prisoners. Its unique design is based on the 18th century "panopticon" system for the "ceaseless surveillance" of prisoners from the windows of the central tower.

Opening Hours:

Visits by appointment

Tel: +27 (0)46 622 2312

INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY OF AFRICAN MUSIC

<https://www.ru.ac.za/ilam/>

The International Library of African Music houses a collection of traditional southern African recordings and musical instruments. It includes a library, archive, lecture room and an open-air theatre.

Opening hours:

Monday-Friday: 08h30 to 12h45; 14h15 to 17h00

Tel: +27 (0)46 603 8557

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY

https://en.linkfang.org/wiki/JLB_Smith_Institute_of_Ichthyology

The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, formerly known as the JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology, is the leading centre for the study of aquatic life in southern Africa. The story of the coelacanth is told in a display in the foyer where there is also a marine aquarium.

Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday: 08h00 to 13h00; 14h00 to 17h00

Tel: +27 (0)46 636 1002

AMAZWI MUSEUM OF SOUTH AFRICAN LITERATURE

<http://www.nelm.org.za/>

AMAZWI was established to promote the reading and appreciation of all forms of creative South African literature written in English. Temporary displays focus on various writers, literary periods or themes. Highlights of the museum's collection are the Thomas Pringle Papers, the Sir Percy Fitzpatrick archive, and the papers of Roy Campbell, Athol Fugard, Johannes Meintjes, and Barney Simon.

Opening hours:

By appointment: Tel: +27 (0)46 622 7042

OLD PARSONAGE MUSEUM

http://www.somerset-east.co.za/list/museums/attractions/somerset_east

Shortly after the establishment of the town of Somerset, in 1825, a land on the slopes of the Boschberg Mountain was given to the Wesleyan missionaries for a chapel and graveyard. The chapel was completed and consecrated in 1828, but a few years later the building and surrounding land were transferred to the Dutch Reformed Church. In 1835 the chapel was converted into a parsonage. During the 105 years the building was used as a parsonage, four ministers lived there. In 1971, the building, an exquisite example of a Georgian manor house, was made available as a museum, and in 1972 it was proclaimed a province aided museum and a national monument. The museum was inaugurated during the celebration of the town's 150th anniversary 1975.

Opening hours:

Weekdays from 08h00 to 12h00 and from 14h00 to 16h00.

To make arrangements to view the Museum on Saturdays and Public holidays, phone the Museum before the time.

Tel: +27 (0)42 243 2079

FORT BEAUFORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

<https://www.raymondmhlaba.gov.za/tourism/fort-beaufort/fort-beaufort-museum>

The Fort Beaufort Historical Museum displays aspects of the military and domestic life of Victorian times as well as a collection of weapons from the 19th century Frontier Wars.

Opening hours:

Monday-Friday: 08h30 to 13h00; 14h00 to 17h00

Saturday: 08h30 to 12h45

Tel: +27 (0)46 645 1555

ANN'S VILLA BLACKSMITH MUSEUM

http://www.somerset-east.co.za/list/museums/attractions/somerset_east

Located at the foot of the Zuurberg Pass a kilometre off the R335 is the historic inn of Ann's Villa. Here you will find the original blacksmith, which formed part of this small hamlet. The smithy is now a registered museum open to the public. The museum is situated in its original location and was modelled on a London style blacksmith of the 1800s. The contents of the museum virtually consist of all the original tools and machines, and testifies to the variety of tasks expected of a rural blacksmith. It is considered to be one of the finest examples of a rural smithy in South Africa.

Opening hours:

Open from 09h00 to 17h00

Mobile: +27 (0)84 548 4398

FAIRWORLD FINE WOOL MUSEUM

http://www.somerset-east.co.za/list/museums/attractions/somerset_east

The Fairworld Fine Wool Museum was set up by Willem van Aardt to capture the history of a century of the Fairworld Merino Stud. The Museum not only tells the story of fine wool breeding in South Africa in general, but also the history of the van Aardt family, which has been farming at Roodewal for more than two centuries, since 1797.

Opening hours:

Visits can be arranged with a reasonable short notice. The Museum is open most Saturdays between 10h00 and 11h30, but it would be advisable to confirm your visit prior arrangement.

Mobile: +27 (0)82 893 4997

WALTER BATTISS ART MUSEUM

http://www.somerset-east.co.za/list/museums/attractions/somerset_east

In an official ceremony held in front of the white-gabled house in Paulet Street, Somerset East in 1981, Walter Whall Battiss bequeathed a large collection of his own art works to “the people of Somerset East and South Africa.” This was the largest Battiss collection in South Africa before the Jack Ginsberg collection was given to Wits Art Museum, in June 2016, to be exhibited for three months and then to form the nucleus for a definitive Battiss collection which will be available for study and research. The two story house with its long shaded verandah was fully restored when serious deterioration of the building was identified in 1999, and it reopened in 2004.

Weekdays :08h30 to 13h00 and 14h00 until 17h00 .

Visits can be arranged between 10h00 and 12h00 on Saturdays and Public holidays, by previous arrangement.

Tel: +27 (0)42 243 1448

Mobile: +27 (0)73 698 6539

THE GREAT FISH RIVER MUSEUM

<https://www.sa-venues.com/things-to-do/easterncape/great-fish-river-museum/>

The Great Fish River Museum, housed in the old Dutch Reformed Church parsonage in Cradock, a national monument dating back to 1849, gives a picture of the way of life of pioneer settlers in the Eastern Cape in 1806 through furniture, ceramics and photographs.

Opening hours:

Tuesday -Friday: 08h00 to 13h00; 14h00 to 16h00

Saturday: 08h00 to 12h00

Tel: +27 (0)48 881 4509

SCHREINER HOUSE

http://www.thegreatkaroo.com/listing/olive_schreiner_house_cradock

Schreiner House, a satellite of Grahamstown's National English Literary Museum, is a typical example of a 19th century Karoo house. It highlights the life and works of the famous South African writer and feminist, Olive Schreiner, who lived here from 1867 to 1870.

Opening hours:

Monday-Friday: 09h00 to 12h30; 14h30 to 16h30

Tel: +27 (0)48 881 5251

OWL HOUSE MUSEUM

<http://theowlhouse.co.za/>

Weird to some, wonderful to others, the Owl House is a work of outsider art created by Helen Martins between 1945 and 1976. Driven to despair by the dullness of her daily life, she took steps to transform her world with light, colour and texture. Miss Helen, as she was known by many, was a retiring figure in the village, who employed local laborers, most notably Koos Malgas, to help her construct her Camel Yard which she filled with its many sculptures of bottle-skirted hostesses, mermaids, camels and pilgrims, all journeying to a mystical East. Miss Helen's imagination transformed humble materials such as cement, glass, mirrors and wire into a secret, magical world that she shared with few.

Opening hours:

Monday to Sunday: 09h00 to 16h45

December school holidays, 08h00 to 17h45; and closed on December 25

DAMESFONTEIN MUSEUM

<http://www.graaffreinet.co.za/list/museums/attractions/graaffreinet>

This is an impressive collection of artefacts of the past. Marguerite, the fifth generation living on the farm has collected a large variety of collectables of the past, from wagons, implements, tools, to kitchen utensils, furniture - right down to newspaper editions as old as 60 years and even needlework used by Marguerites' grandmother. Then there are the fossils - all collected on the farm and the district, known for its fossil findings. Even old medicines and livestock medicines. Walking through the original homestead, you get the feeling of how the first settlers lived. How they worked, the hardships they endured, the wars they lived through. One can only admire those tough people of the past.

Opening hours:

Please note that visits to the museum are for overnight guests only.

Mobile: +27 (0)71 868 8146

MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM

<http://www.graaffreinet.co.za/list/museums/attractions/graaffreinet>

The Military History Museum is the most recent addition to the Graaff-Reinet Museum Complex and was established in 2005. The building was built along the lines of a stable situated on the same premises, to ensure that it is in keeping with the architectural style of the rest of the buildings of the museum complex.

The museum provides an overview of the military history of Graaff-Reinet from the 1800s until 30 June 2007.

Opening hours:

Monday - Friday 08h00 to 13h00 and 14h00 to 17h00'

Saturday - 09h00 to 12h00

Sunday - 09h00 to 13h00

Closed on Public holidays

Tel: +27 (0)49 892 3801

OLD RESIDENCY MUSEUM

<http://www.graaffreinet.co.za/list/museums/attractions/graaffreinet>

This is a well-preserved example of an early 19th century Cape Dutch H-shaped house. There are five rooms of displays: 1899-1902 Anglo Boer War room with interesting articles and photographs, a collection of sporting rifles, DMR Memorabilia of the Second World War, a Music Room filled with vintage and antique instruments and a display of local rafts from the region.

Monday - Friday 08h00 to 13h00 and 14h00 to 17h00'

Saturday - 09h00 to 12h00

Sunday - 09h00 to 13h00

Closed on Public holidays

Tel: +27 (0)49 892 3801

HESTER RUPERT ART MUSEUM

<http://www.graaffreinet.co.za/list/museums/attractions/graaffreinet>

The foundation stone for this building was laid on the 24 April 1821, to serve as a church and school for the "Graaff-Reinet Missionary Society for the Expansion of God's Kingdom among the Heathen". With funds raised by the directors it was the artisan members of the congregation who built the solid walls and gables with an expert called in to assist in completing the vault. Consecrated in the same year it was the sixth oldest church in South Africa and one of the three remaining built on the traditional cruciform plan. The building was saved from becoming a filling station in 1965 when Dr Anton Rupert negotiated a sale to the Historical Homes of South Africa who restored the building. On 26 July with donations from various artists the museum was officially opened and handed over to the Town Council of Graaff-Reinet. In gratitude the Council named the building the Hester Rupert Art Museum in honour of Dr Rupert's mother who had been born in Graaff-Reinet. It was declared a national monument on 4 October 1984 and houses a magnificent collection of South African artists' works.

Tel: +27 (0)49 807 5700

URQUHART HOUSE MUSEUM

<http://www.graaffreinet.co.za/list/museums/attractions/graaffreinet>

The exact date this house situated at the southern end of Market Square was built is unknown but it is assumed that it was built between 1806 and 1821. The building boasts a Cape neo-classical pilaster front gable ornamented with an anchor and numerous stars the reason for which is unknown.

After changing hands several times, the house was bought in 1912 by Herbert Urquhart MBE a former mayor of Graaff-Reinet. The municipality bought the property from the Urquhart estate in 1964 and having been the residence of Urquhart for over 50 years it became known as "Urquhart House". In 1990 the town council transferred ownership of the house and remaining portion of the garden to the Graaff-Reinet Museum.

The house contains many fine examples of period furniture, bric-a-brac and a unique peach pip kitchen floor.

Tel: +27 (0)49 892 3801

REINET HOUSE MUSEUM

<http://www.graaffreinet.co.za/list/museums/attractions/graaffreinet>

The museum houses a fine array of period furniture and kitchen utensils, doll collection, medical and dental collection, haberdashery and clothing collection, wagon and transport collection as well as a blacksmith collection.

Opening hours:

Monday - Friday 08h00 to 13h00 and 14h00 to 17h00

Saturday - 09h00 to 12h00

Sunday - 09h00 to 13h00

Closed on Public holidays

Tel: +27 (0)49 892 3801

OLD LIBRARY MUSEUM

<http://www.graaffreinet.co.za/list/museums/attractions/graaffreinet>

This building served the town as its library until 1981 when a modern library was built in Parsonage Street. The municipality donated the old building to the Graaff-Reinet Museum which now uses it to house specialised collections. It was proclaimed a National Monument on 27 February 1987. In 2005, with the assistance of the National Lottery Distribution fund, the Board of Trustees of the Museum developed the building to include conference facilities and exhibition areas to portray the history of the previously disadvantaged community of Graaff-Reinet. The building contains the following exhibitions: Karoo Fossils, Slavery, Long Road to Restitution, Rock Art and Artifacts, Achievers of Graaff-Reinet and the Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe display.

Opening hours:

Monday - Friday 08h00 to 13h00 and 14h00 to 17h00

Saturday - 09h00 to 12h00

Sunday - 09h00 to 13h00

Closed on Public holidays

Tel: +27 (0)49 892 3801

SHELL MUSEUM

<http://www.sa-venues.com/things-to-do/easterncape/jeffreys-bay-shell-museum/>

Jeffreys Bay has always been known for its beautiful shells so it stands to reason that the town should have a Shell Museum. The more than 600 shells from species all over the world makes it one of the largest shell collections in South Africa and attracts shell fanatics from all over the globe. Housed in glass cases is a huge variety of shells including the legendary cowrie, the rare paper nautilus, tiny baby jam tarts and a new species of cone. Local shells and shell craft can be purchased just outside the museum from the shell shops and stalls.

Monday to Saturday from 09h00 to 16h00;

Sundays from 09h00 to 13h00.

Tel: +27 (0)42 293 1945

JAN RUPERT CENTRE

<http://www.graaffreinet.co.za/list/museums/attractions/graaffreinet>

The Neo-Gothic building in Middle Street was originally a place of worship for the Mantatees, a refugee of the Sotho tribe that had fled south across the Orange River in the 1820's. In 1870 improvements were made to the building. As the membership numbers dwindled and the remaining members joined the Parsonage Street Congregation the building was for years used as a storehouse and eventually fell into disrepair. Through the intercession of Dr Anton Rupert, the property was restored and officially handed over to the Save Reinet Foundation in 1986 when it was renamed after Dr Rupert's late brother Jan. The Jan Rupert centre has at present on exhibition "Jean Lurcat - French Tapestries".

Opening hours:

Monday - Friday : 09h00 to 12h30 and 14h00 to 17h00

Weekends and Public Holidays : 09h00 to 12h00

Closed on Christmas Day and Good Friday

Tel: +27 (0)49 892 6107

GANORA FOSSIL MUSEUM

<http://www.graaffreinet.co.za/list/museums/attractions/graaffreinet>

The Ganora Fossil Museum in Nieu Bethesda was registered in 1998 and, although small, houses many finds discovered on Ganora. The fossils that are on exhibition are on average about 280 million years old. This was during the time when reptiles roamed the earth before the age of the dinosaurs. Small models of these reptiles are on display. They also have fossilised leaves from the Glossopteris trees which formed the coal which is mined in South Africa today. The Compasia dela Harpi fish fossil is also on show in the museum, it is the only complete example of this fossil in the world.

Opening hours:

By appointment

Tel: +27 (0)49 841 1302

MOHAIR EXPERIENCE MUSEUM

http://www.jansenville.co.za/listing/the_mohair_experience_museum

The Jansenville Museum (Sid Fourie House) was officially opened in November 2009 with the International Mohair Summit held in Jansenville and Graaff - Reinet. It is an experience to watch the processes of mohair, from the goat to the garment or fabric. There is also a shop in this building with the finest mohair products supplied by various suppliers of mohair products. Angora goats form the main branch of farming in the Jansenville district and, while wool and meat are also produced, the economy of the town and the district depends largely on the diamond fibre mohair.

Mobile: +27 (0)72 981 0650

STEYTLERVILLE MUSEUM

<http://www.openafrica.org/experiences/participant/2808-steytlerville-museum>

The Steytlerville Museum, situated in the town of Steytlerville was initiated in 1967, and is a small community-run museum which houses the history of settlement in the Steytlerville area. The museum includes clothes, house implements and memorabilia from the turn of the century, and includes much about the history of the town of Steytlerville and the surrounding farming communities. The museum also houses artefacts from the Boer War era. An open-air museum, also managed by the museum, exhibits farming implements and turn of the century home articles. The museum is currently only open to the public by prior arrangement. Mobile: +27 (0)82 808 9977

HUMANSDORP MUSEUM

<http://www.stfrancistourism.co.za/directories/humansdorp-museum>

The Humansdorp Museum, a cultural history museum, focuses on the growth and development of Humansdorp through its display of farming implements, bottles, shells, clothing and crockery. It also features a restored water mill. Monday-Friday: 10h00 to 13h00; 14h00 to 16h00
Tel: +27 (0)42 291 0625