



McGregor Museum Kimberley

Archaeology Department: Wonderwerk Cave – Information



- [Contact Information](#)
- [Site Etiquette](#)
- [Facilities & Activities](#)
- [Further Reading](#)
- [Other Places of Interest](#)
- [Acknowledgements](#)

Contact Information

Wonderwerk Cave
C/o Archaeology Department,
McGregor Museum
P. O. Box 316
Kimberley 8300
Telephone +27 (0) 82 222 4777

* Admission fee payable

Site Etiquette

Please help us to conserve this site for future generations:

1. Entry to the cave is permitted only in the company of a guide.

2. Please keep to the walkways and away from the edges of the excavations. Under no circumstances may visitors go into any of the excavations. The site is an ongoing scientific research project – a collapsed excavation wall may destroy evidence of thousands of years.
 3. The walls were previously defaced by graffiti, since removed by painstaking effort, and at great expense, so that visitors can enjoy the rock paintings. No person may leave a mark on the walls, nor wet, nor touch the paintings. The visitor's book provides an opportunity for signatures and comments.
 4. No animals are allowed in the cave or in the conservation area.
 5. Please braai only in the areas provided.
 6. Any new archaeological or rock art finds in the Northern Cape should be reported to the McGregor Museum (which houses the Archaeological Recording Centre for the Province) in Kimberley, telephone: 053 839 2706.)
-

Facilities & Activities

- Cave walkway
 - Information and exhibition centre
 - Bird and nature watching
 - Farm stall
 - Barbecue (Braai) Facilities
 - 3 Chalets – fully equipped for self-catering accommodating 4 people each.
 - private braai facility
 - please book
 - Ablution block
 - Wheelchair friendly
-

Further Reading

Avery, D.M. 1981. Holocene micromammalian faunas from the northern Cape Province, South Africa. *South African Journal of Science* 77:265–273.

Beaumont, P.B. 1979. A first account of recent excavations at Wonderwerk Cave. Paper presented at the 6th Biennial Conference of the Southern African Association of Archaeologists, Cape Town, June 1979.

Beaumont, P.B. 1982. Aspects of the northern Cape Pleistocene Project. *Palaeoecology of Africa* 15:41– 44.

Beaumont, P.B. 1990. Wonderwerk Cave. In Beaumont, P.B. & Morris, D. 1990. *Guide to archaeological sites in the Northern Cape*. Kimberley: McGregor Museum.

Butzer, K.W., Stuckenrath, R., & Vogel, J.C. 1979a. The geo-archaeological sequence of Wonderwerk Cave, South Africa. Abstract of paper presented to the Society of Africanist Archaeologists in America, Calgary, April 1979.

Humphreys, A.J.B. & Thackeray, A.I. 1983. Ghaap and Gariiep. South African Archaeological Society Monograph Series No. 2.

Malan, B.D. & Cooke, H.B S. 1941. A preliminary account of the Wonderwerk Cave, Kuruman district. South African Journal of Science 37:300–312.

Malan, B.D. & Wells, L.H. 1943. A further report on the Wonderwerk Cave, Kuruman. South Africa Journal of Science 40:258–270.

Thackeray, A.I. 1981. The Holocene cultural sequence in the northern Cape Province, South Africa. Unpublished PhD thesis : Yale University.

Thackeray, J.F. 1984. Man, animals and extinctions : the analysis of Holocene faunal remains from Wonderwerk Cave, South Africa. Unpublished PhD thesis : Yale University.

Thackeray, A.I., Thackeray, J.F., Beaumont, P.B. & Vogel, J.C. 1981. Dated rock engravings from Wonderwerk Cave, South Africa. Science 214:64–67.

Van Zinderen Bakker, E.M. 1982. Pollen analytical studies of the Wonderwerk Cave, South Africa. Pollen et Spores 24:235–250.

Beaumont, P.B. & Vogel, J.C. 2006. On a timescale for the past million years of human history in central South Africa. *South African Journal of Science* 102:217–228.

Ron, H., Beaumont, P., Chazan, M. Horwitz, L.K., Porat, N., & Yates, R. 2005. Evidence for early Acheulean cave occupation revealed by magneto-stratigraphy of Wonderwerk Cave, Northern Cape. SASQUA Conference, Bloemfontein. Abstracts, 49–50.

Other Places Of Interest

- In Kuruman: Gasegonyana – "the little water calabash" – commonly called The Eye, the Moffat Mission with library, museum displays and shop (books, souvenirs), the Raptor Rehabilitation Centre and the Bird Park.
- In Daniëlskuil: the Kuil and the London Missionary Society Mission Church.
- Near Barkly West: Canteen Kopje and the Barkly West Museum in the old Toll House.
- Near Postmasburg: Blinkklipkop (Tsantsabane) ancient specularite mine.
- Witsand Nature Reserve, with displays on the area; and where accommodation is also available.

- In Kimberley: McGregor Museum – Ancestors Gallery, featuring Wonderwerk Cave. Excavated collections from the site are housed at McGregor Museum.
 - Wildebeest Kuil Rock Art Centre and other rock art sites near Kimberley.
-

Acknowledgements

Archaeological research at Wonderwerk Cave has been made possible through the generosity of:

- The Bosman and Nieuwoudt families for their decades of interest and support and for ceding the cave and the surrounding land to the McGregor Museum in 1993, for scientific research.
 - The Human Sciences Research Council and the Anglo–American and De Beers Chairman's Fund for bearing the cost of archaeological investigations at the site since 1978
 - The then Kalahari District Council for financing the removal of graffiti from the cave and for the erection of facilities which contribute greatly towards its protection and fuller appreciation.
 - The Ga–Segonyana and Kgalagadi local and district municipalities for annual grants and further development of facilities.
 - Renewed research, since 2004, made possible by funding raised by Prof Michael Chazan of University of Toronto, Canada. This project has job–creation aspects.
-