



McGregor Museum Kimberley

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Calvinia Museum



This Museum portrays life in the Hantam during the early years and is accommodated in the old synagogue. This synagogue was erected in 1920 and donated to the municipality for use as a museum in 1968.

Farming activities are depicted by the bucketpump, flour mill, cobbling workshop as well as soap and candle-making utensils. Examples of flap trousers, black wedding dresses, wall cupboards, porcelain and brass objects can be seen. Visitors are frequently amused by the mousetrap, moustache cup, four-legged ostrich and

merino sheep with a fleece of 38 cm.

Photographs and articles of local patriarchs draw the interest of visitors with family ties in the Hantam.

The latest development is an exhibition of the sheep and wool farming activities in this area. To supplement this display an indigenous veld garden was established where the different types of bushes, grass and flowers of the area can be seen.

Contact us

44 Church Street

Calvinia

Tel: +27 (0)27 341 1043

Kalahari-Oranje Museum



The Museum is housed in the buildings erected by the Reverend Schröder in 1875 as a church and mission station. Domestic items dating from that era and articles relating to the history of Upington and the Lower Orange River can be seen here. The museum is home to the life-sized monument of the donkey, sculptured in bronze by

Hennie Potgieter. It symbolises the unselfish contribution made by the donkey in developing the Lower Orange River Valley during the pioneer days.

Museum visiting hours:

Mondays to Fridays: 09:00 – 12:30 & 14:00 – 17:00

Saturdays: 09:00 – 12:00

Contact us:

+27 (0)54 332 6064

Mary Moffat Museum



Griquatown, hometown of the remarkable Griqua leaders Adam Kok and Andries Waterboer, is situated 150 km from Kimberley, has the unique distinction of being the first town to be established north of the Orange River.

At the request of the Griquas, the London Missionary Society missionaries Cornelius Kramer and William Anderson established themselves in 1804 as missionaries at Griquatown. Kramer's wife was the first white woman to be buried north of the Orange River, the grave still standing intact today.

The old mission house, build roundabout 1828, today houses the Mary Moffat Museum. When Griquatown was laid out as a town in 1879, the survey commenced from the mission house, the parallels being taken from the front walls of the building. In 1904 this house was sold to Barclays Bank, who purchased the property directly from the London Missionary Society, and up to 1956 used it as a bank. When Barclays Bank completed their new building next door, the building was converted into a museum. Dr Al Geyer, a director of Barclays Bank, officially handed over the old house to Mr Willy van Zyl, the Mayor.

Dr Robert Moffat and his wife Mary, waiting to depart to Kuruman, resided at Griquatown when their daughter, Mary, later Mrs. David Livingstone, was born at Griquatown in 1821. Later the Moffats and Livingstone often visited the missionaries here.

The so-called Moffat pulpit can be seen in the museum. A declared National Monument, it was probably made by Robert Hamilton, a co-operator of Moffat. The old ship's bell was the church bell, and was reputedly brought from Cape Town on the back of an ox. It announced the sermons preached by the missionaries Livingstone, Moffat and Waterboer.

The Griqua state had their own coinage and flag, and produced their own gun powder. Waterboer's "Palace" (known as "the yellow yard" too), was a house with six rooms. A high wall surrounded the house, equipped as a cattle kraal and had shooting holes in case of a siege. The famous "execution tree", where Waterboer hanged stock thieves and murderers, can still be seen. On special occasions the Griquas gathered under this tree. Waterboer's organ is housed in the museum too. It was purchased at Van Druten's shop, and cost 400 pounds. Two little

cannons, originally know as "old Niklaas and old Grietjie" (names after Nicolaas Waterboer and his wife) were given to the Griquas by the British Government. They were put up at the "Palace", and were later taken to Kimberley but eventually returned to Griquatown again. At present they adorn Waterboer's monument near the hospital.

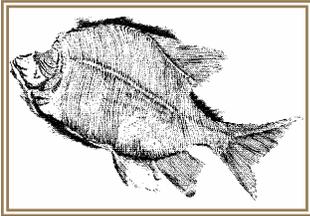
Contact us:

Main Street

Griquatown

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Victoria West Museum



The museum consists of two halls: the B.J. Kempen Hall (**Fossil Hall**), covering the prehistory and **natural history** of the Karoo, and the Cultural History Hall, depicting the history of Victoria West, its people and environs.

Fossil Hall shows that in prehistoric times, long before the coming of man into the dry karoo, this area was wet and marshy with an abundance of wild animals. The focal point of the displays is the fish fossils, the most unique of which is the *Atherstonia seeleyi*, a fish from some 250 million years ago (top left). It is unique because of the structure of its scales, which served as a type of shell, as the fish had no backbone. This fossil is the most complete of its kind ever found, and is preserved in the museum, together with other types of fossils from the district, such as a *Bradysaurus*, an herbivorous reptile which lived 250 million years ago.

Natural History Display Hall

The Karoo is an area of extremes, with searing heat in the summer and icy winters. The land is beautiful, wild and open, with rough mountains alternating with stony plains, salt pans and sand.

There is also a historical walking trail through the streets of Victoria West. More information about this can be obtained from the museum.

Cultural History Display

The town of Victoria West was founded in 1843, when the Dutch Reformed Church bought a portion of the farm Zeekoegat from the estate of Mr J.H. Claassens. The town was named after Queen Victoria, but to avoid confusion with an Eastern Cape district of the same name, the "West" was added at a later stage.

Contact Us:

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Victoria West

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