



McGregor Museum Kimberley

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McGregor Memorial Museum



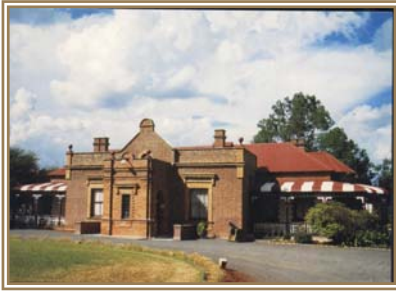
Chapel Street, Kimberley. Changes are underway at this museum and it will soon be a Kimberley History Museum, with a Kimberley timeline emphasising, amongst others, the Kimberley Firsts. The development of the city will also be covered, including “Forgotten Suburbs”, such as Greenpoint, Galeshewe and the historic Malay Camp, a site of forced removal. The original museum building in Chapel Street was donated to the people of Kimberley by Mrs Margaret McGregor in 1907, in memory of her late husband, Alexander McGregor, a diamond pioneer and mayor of Kimberley in 1886. Designed by F Carstairs Rogers, this attractive brick building with its intricate façade conforms closely to British norms for public buildings during the Victorian and Edwardian eras. With its neighbours, the Methodist Church and Manse, it forms one of the very few remaining urban groupings from Kimberley's past. Achille Bocciarelli, an Italian sculptor and owner of local brickworks, sculpted the two reclining female figures on the pediment. Miss Maria Wilman was appointed as the first curator of the museum in 1908. During the nearly forty years that she was in charge of the museum, she developed it into one of the most important in South Africa. Her fields of interest, in which she laid the foundations of the present museum collections, were Botany, Mineralogy, Ethnology and Archaeology. In 1957 the increasing size of the collections necessitated a move to larger premises in the Chapwood Building across the street. By the late 1960s shortage of space was a real problem. Plans for a new museum building were already completed when the Kimberley Sanatorium, a historical Kimberley building, became available for such a purpose. The museum staff and collections moved to these new premises in 1973.

Contact us:

Telephone: 053 839 2722 / Fax: 053 842 1433

Monday to Friday: 09:00 – 17:00 – Closed on weekends and public holidays.

Duggan–Cronin Gallery



Egerton Road, Kimberley.

The Duggan–Cronin Gallery is a photographic museum displaying the photographs of Alfred Duggan–Cronin, Aubrey Elliot, Jean Morris and Alice Mertens. Their photographs of the indigenous peoples of southern Africa, taken between 1919 and 1980, show aspects of traditional life and dress now largely vanished. This building, originally known as “The Lodge”, was built in 1889 for John Blades Currey, the manager of the London and South African Exploration

Company. It became the property of De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. in 1899 and was used as a home for William Pickering, the Secretary and later Director of De Beers, and subsequently as a guest house. In 1938 the company donated the building to the Kimberley City Council to house the Duggan–Cronin Collection. Alfred Duggan–Cronin was the first curator. Today the McGregor Museum is responsible for the maintenance of this collection. AM Duggan–Cronin arrived in Kimberley in 1897. He worked in the De Beers compounds, where he began to build up a photographic record of the different tribes working on the mines. Encouraged by Maria Wilman, he undertook expeditions to the main tribal areas, where he photographed the people before the Western influence drastically changed their traditional ways of life. The Duggan–Cronin collection consists of negatives and prints, as well as artefacts of material culture of the tribes, including beadwork, costumes, pottery, iron tools and wood carvings. A selection of his photographs have been included in publications such as *The Bushmen Tribes of Southern Africa* and *The Bantu Tribes of South Africa*.

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Dunluce



10 Lodge Road, Belgravia.

Dunluce, or Lillianville as it was first known, is a typical late Victorian house with wooden facade and much of the original furnishings. It is one of Kimberley's most elegant buildings. The name means “strong fortress” and is named after Dunluce Castle in Northern Ireland, the land of John Orr's birth. The house was designed by D W Greatbatch and built in 1897 for Gustav Bonas, Chairman of the Griqualand West Hebrew Congregation, member of the Diamond Syndicate and

Director of the Diamond Fields Advertiser. In 1903 it was bought by John Orr, the founder of a chain of department stores of the same name. He and his successors lived here until 1975, when the house was purchased by Barlow Rand (Pty) Ltd. and donated to the McGregor Museum.

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By appointment only with a guide from the McGregor Museum.

Rudd House



4 Loch Road, Belgravia.

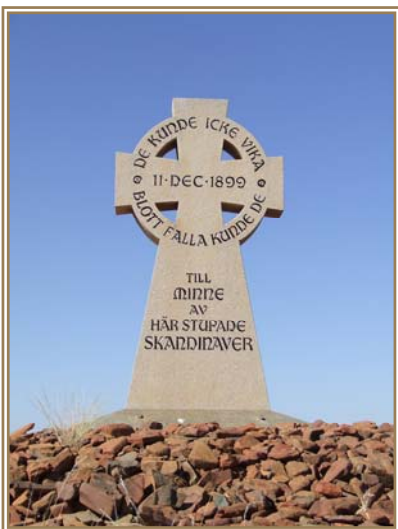
Rudd House is a typical example of a residence built for wealthy people during the 19th century. The building is surrounded by verandahs and is lavishly furnished. It boasts a billiard room with a full-size billiard table, still in excellent condition. Outside the house is a gigantic fig tree with its characteristic thick roots showing above ground level. This house, then known as “The Bungalow”, was built in the late 1880s and originally had only four rooms. In 1896 it was bought by the mining magnate Charles Dunnell Rudd, who passed it to his son, Henry Percy Rudd, in 1898. He built on extensively. In 1971 it was donated to the McGregor Museum by De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. and restored to its former glory.

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Magersfontein Battlefield



About 31.5 km on the Modder River Road past the airport.

The Magersfontein battlefield is a must for any visitor to Kimberley. It is situated south of Kimberley and can be reached either via the airport road (31.5km) or via the N12 to Modder River (47,5km). It was here that General P A Cronje and his Boer troops defeated the English forces of Lt Gen Lord Methuen who were on their way to relieve besieged Kimberley.

Methuen planned to attack Magersfontein at dawn on 11 December 1899, using General A G Wauchope's Highland Brigade as his main assault force. Methuen believed the Boers were positioned on high ground and ordered his artillery to shell Magersfontein during the afternoon of 10 December, thus sacrificing a possible surprise attack.

Wauchope's Highlanders left Headquarters Hill at 00:30 the following morning. The plan required that they be in position below the Magersfontein hill by 02:30, but a dark, stormy night slowed their advance. The Highland Brigade only deployed at about 03:45 some 400 m from the unsuspected Boer trenches. In the dim pre-dawn the Boers opened fire, throwing the Highland Brigade into chaos.

The Highland Brigade fought valiantly but was driven back by Boer rifle fire and its own shellfire. By midmorning the Brigade was pinned down and unable to move despite reinforcement by the Gordon Highlanders.

The British were on the back foot for most of the battle. At about midday on the 12th Methuen withdrew his troops to Modder River station, where he remained for the following two months. Kimberley would have to wait two more months before it was relieved.

The Magersfontein Battlefield Museum was first opened in 1971 and renovated in 1999. Numerous artefacts from the battlefield can be seen, as well as an audio-visual presentation. With this display visitors can experience the battle as if from a darkened Boer trench with all the sights and sounds as the action unfolds. The museum has some examples of the uniforms worn by the leading role players and a selection of firearms used by the British and Boer forces. A hilltop memorial located close to the museum commemorates the Scottish dead, while the Royal Highlanders (Black Watch) monument honours the men of the 2nd battalion who died during the battle. Two more notable memorials are those of the Scandinavians who fought alongside the Boers and the imposing Burgher monument to the north-east of the main Magersfontein hill.

Information on the battlefield and refreshments are available at the cafeteria. Recently a guesthouse, the Bagpipe Lodge, was also established at Magersfontein.

For further information contact [Sunet Swanepoel](#). [Every effort has been made to accommodate people with disabilities. Wheelchair paths have been added so that everyone can experience the wonderful view from the observation post.]

Contact us:

Telephone: 053 833 7115 / Fax: 053 842 1433

Monday to Sunday: 08:00 – 17:00

Closed on Christmas Day & Good Friday.

Pioneers of Aviation



About 4 km off the N8, on General van der Spuy Drive.

This National Monument on the site of the first flying school in South Africa, comprises a memorial, a reconstructed hangar and a replica of the Compton Paterson biplane used in flight training. It commemorates the role played by early aviators in establishing the South African Air Force. Aviation in Kimberley dates back to 6 June 1911, when John Weston made the first flight in the city, establishing a South African non-stop flight record of 8½ minutes in his Weston-Farman biplane, the first South African built aeroplane. Cecil Compton Paterson, Captain Guy Livingstone and E F (Bok) Driver arrived in Cape Town in December 1911 for a series of demonstration flights. These demonstrations, including one in Kimberley and the first airmail flight, brought aviation to public notice. Compton Paterson established his own flying school, the first in South Africa, at Alexandersfontein in July 1913. He negotiated with the Union government to train military pilots at his flying school and on 10 September General Jan Christian Smuts signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Paterson whereby ten pupils were to be trained as pilots. The training was comprehensive and tough. Five of these men eventually became the first pilots of the newly formed South African Aviation Corps, which went into action on 6 May 1915, when Kenneth van der Spuy flew a reconnaissance sortie at Walvis Bay.

Private students also attended the flying school, one of the most famous being Marie Bocciarelli, who was the first woman in South Africa to train as a pilot. The flying school at Alexandersfontein was abandoned in 1914 due to the outbreak of World War 1 and Paterson's return to England.

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Wildebess Kuil



About 16 km on the R31 to Barkly West.

On the outskirts of Kimberley is a community-based public rock art project, the Wildebess Kuil Rock Art Centre. Khoe-San people, researchers and other stakeholders joined together to conserve the rock engravings here – more than 400 are spread over a small sacred hill. A visit here can be a deeply moving experience, and an informative one for school groups. The site, surrounded by land owned by the !Xun and Khwe San people, is on a servitude set aside for rock art conservation and public access. Community custodians / tour guides will help make your visit special. The experience begins at a Visitors' Centre, where there are displays, and an auditorium with a twenty minute introductory film. The 800 m walk-way weaves up and over the hill via a number of information boards, while visitors can listen to an MP3 audio commentary as they walk. There is also the N//aoh Djaoh shop, the main outlet for !Xun and Khwe craftwork, other community-made souvenirs, and refreshments.

Contact us:

Telephone: 053 833 7069 / or 082 222 4777

Monday to Friday: 09:00 – 16:00

Weekends and public holidays: 10:00 – 16:00

Wonderwerk Caves



40 km from Daniëlskuil on main road to Kuruman.

Wonderwerk Cave is on the eastern side of the Kuruman Hills, which consist mainly of ancient limestone, called dolomite. It is a solution cavity, which was formed millions of years ago as the limestone was dissolved by ground water and which was much later opened at one end by hillside erosion. The tunnel-shaped cave runs horizontally for 139 m into the base of the hill. Over time sand was blown into the cave to gradually form horizontal layers of sediment up to the present depth of 4 m. Different dating methods have shown that the very lowest levels range back to more than 800 000 years ago. Archaeological excavations showed that all of these layers contain stone artefacts (tools) which indicate that people lived in the cave over the entire period. Wonderwerk

Cave thus has a very long record of human history, which exceeds that of any other recorded cave. Other discoveries made here totally transform previous ideas of how early humans lived. There is clear evidence for a "home base" in the cave, with an area of grass bedding where the occupants slept. There is also evidence that they had the ability to produce fire, one of mankind's greatest technological triumphs. Food was brought back to the cave to be shared by the family group. The range of animal remains found indicate that the hunters were skilled, rather than mere scavengers. These and other findings suggest that the cultural practices that make us truly human arose very long ago in southern Africa. Wonderwerk Cave is a National Heritage Site. The interesting and colourful exhibition in the Information Centre covers the rich history of the cave, plants and animals of the area, early travelers and much more.

Contact us:

Telephone: 053 712 1036 / or 082 832 7226

Contact Mrs Joubert for refreshments and overnight facilities.
